

THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

STATION
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COMPUTER COMPANIES

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Putting the "Personal" back into personal computing: Portable Manufacturers' motto is 'smaller, faster, lighter'

PORTABLE COMPUTERS are now set to play a central role in the fast-moving drama that is the world computer industry. The evidence can be seen in the wide-ranging deal struck between IBM, the world's largest computer manufacturer, and Groupe Bull, the French national computer champion, which owns the Zenith Data Systems (ZDS) portable computers which along with Toshiba of Japan are the pioneers in portable computing. Toshiba is the market leader in portables outside Japan. The deal with Bull, therefore, plugs an important gap in IBM's product line while providing a welcome source of extra volume for the French company's manufacturing facilities.

Further evidence comes from Apple Computer, the world's second largest PC company. It moved last year into "notebook" computers with its PowerBook series and sold 10,000 in the first three months of the fiscal year. If further proof was necessary, newcomers to the market are electing to make portables rather than any other kind of personal computer. What, these days, constitutes a portable computer? In the 1970s and 1980s, it was a machine that could be transported safely in a car boot. Compaq Computer of the US pioneered many of the design and manufacturing technologies that made it possible to lug

around several kilograms of delicate electronics without damage.

The introduction of notebook machines, courtesy principally of Japanese manufacturers, capable of being carried in a briefcase, but featuring a full-size screen and keyboard, changed that perception of portable machines.

chines to attract attention; hand held, palmtop or pocket computers.

Among the manufacturers of pocket-sized computers are Psion and DIP of the UK, Hewlett-Packard of the US and Poqet, a California-based company in which Fujitsu of Japan has a substantial stake.

They offer many of the functions found in full-sized PCs of IBM design. The best-selling Hewlett-Packard model, for example, takes the user into the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet with a single key stroke.

The problem with all handhelds, however, is the miniature keyboard which makes typing virtually impossible, and the small screen. Handheld computers can have important roles in business, but the future of portable computing seems to lie with notebooks.

Now the dividing line between portable and notebooks is difficult to draw. Performance is similar — both operate off either mains power or batteries. Both have full-sized screens and fully-featured keyboards. Both use the most powerful microprocessor chips available with memory capacity to match. The motto of computer manufacturers has become "smaller, faster, lighter." It is however, easier to distinguish between notebook computers and the latest variety of portable machines.

The market for notebook machines, for example, which some thought would grow by 80 per cent last year grew only about 40 per cent because of the recession. Still, the overall market grew by 39 per cent between 1990 and 1991. Portable makers are, however, optimistic that the market will see a substantial growth through to 1993.

Their optimism is justified by the fact that portable computers seem to be putting the "personal" back into personal computing. A key element of the PC revolution was the freedom from dependence on the data centre that it gave individual users.

Where a combination of portable and desktop computing is essential, there are docking pods, desktop units to receive the portable processing unit providing it with better screen, keyboard and communications with other computer systems.

In Battery technology, the most promising technique to date has been power management — controlling software which switches off the power to any part of the computer not actually being used. Rotating disk drives and illuminated screens soak up power rapidly, for example.

Rotating magnetic memory, however may well give way to "flash eeprom", semiconductor memory which retains information stored in its circuitry even when the power is switched off. Intel of the US have joined forces with Sharp of Japan to develop

succeeding generations of flash memory chips. We can look forward to a portable computer less than an inch thick and weighing only about 250 grammes. At a price of \$200 and with a 200-hour battery life. Such machines should be available by the end of the decade.



Views on computer advertising

HAVE YOU recently seen the PowerBook advertisement on TV. It's probably the first computer advertisement to appear on TV in Jordan and its quite good too. This was part of a full blown campaign for the Apple Macintosh PowerBook spread out all over a whole page in the daily paper and full colour ads in magazines to coincide with the expo. It made me wonder why we never used TV before (it is still too early to judge the results, of course) but, more importantly, what is the effect of advertisement on the Jordanian computer user?

Upon discussing the topic with many I have gathered some rather interesting opinions. Are computer advertisements misleading to the reader or viewer. Well, let's look at it like this. If you were somebody planning to buy a computer would an advertisement help you make your mind up? The common answer is not necessarily, unless it includes information on a new price discount, new features for the same price or new models worth having rather than buying something older. From such answers one would assume that ads should basically be in informative rather than anything else. What about the promotional side? Couldn't an ad promote computer software and hardware? It depends on how impressive the product actually is. If it looks promising, incorporates certain sought after features or is part of a line of famous computers produced by a respected company then it would grab the attention of computer users.

A view expressed by several people to me was that enthusiastic computer users usually depend on magazines and publications as a main source of information about any product. Once you're finished reading about it, there's nothing wrong with inspecting an advertisement to see if the article missed anything. Most computer users are fans of graphic presentation and accordingly enjoy looking at designs, creative ideas and any other graphic features of a computer advertisement. Still, such a fact may also apply to their reaction towards a shoes ad! Most agree that this basically really applies to computer games advertisements which are probably the most colorful, imaginative and impressive ads around. More importantly, buying a computer game isn't like buying a PC. When you buy a computer, a lot more study goes into the decision specially seeing as a lot more money is invested in it. The user cannot be simply influenced by an ad.

Many brought up the importance of a copyrights law to help users make their decision, since this is the only region in the world in which official dealers and pirates advertise the same piece of software in the same magazine and sometimes on the same page! Obviously, ads for pirated software attract users because of the much lower price which is fine as long as the software in question does not require support. Software isn't complicated. However, it Some users complain that a lot more effort is put into marketing a product through extensively advertising it. Once the user actually goes out and buys it he is appalled by the bad documentation and the lack of literature on it. Surely good documentation is an essential part of marketing a product?

The research goes on in the biggest marketing corporations all over the world to find out what makes a computer user "tick". I don't know about all you users out there, but I'd be happy with a well-documented piece of software or hardware at a moderate price any day. Still, the effect of advertising has been proven in the global computer market and the Jordanian market is no exception. The press here has proven to be the main source of information for users in the market because of the absence of specialized publications like Jordanian computer magazines. So the Jordanian user's search goes on for the ideal place to look or read about the local market and what's available. In the meantime, it would be wise to continue comparing the little information available through advertisements in the papers before contacting any specific suppliers.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 25 JUNE — 1 JULY 1992, VOLUME 3, NUMBER 14

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة



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He's in
charge
now;
but can
he
deliver?

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GCE Expo.

GENERAL COMPUTERS & Electronics Co. held a computer expo, last week under the patronage of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources which ran from 2 to 4 June at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The show included IBM and Tating PCs, Brother printers and a variety of software and operating systems. There was also a seminar schedule including topics such as networking,



banking systems, image processing amongst others. Her Majesty Queen Noor also visited the expo.



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JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on
Jordanian news and views

Who's behind the Jordan-bashing campaign?

Jordan has accused Arab countries of supplying Washington with information about alleged violations through Jordan of UN trade sanctions against Iraq. It accused Ouf countries of conspiring to isolate Jordan and stepping up economic pressures against the kingdom. A Jordanian source was quoted as saying that the recent US decision to postpone joint military exercises was taken as a result of official reports against Jordan submitted by the Iraqi opposition to the US Congress. Washington last month postponed joint military exercises indefinitely, because of what it said was the smuggling of goods to Iraq across Jordanian territory.

Jordan, which denied the accusations on a number of occasions, says the US decision comes at a time when the country is under political pressures for its positions in the peace talks with Israel. Observers in Washington point to a recent increase in criticisms of Jordan by US Congress during the presidential election year and especially after Hia Majesty King Hussein's visit to the US capital last March. During the visit, the US administration said Jordan was abiding by the economic embargo against Iraq.

But a Jordanian official was quoted by Al Quds newspaper on Sunday as saying that the Jordanian government had turned down an American request to allow international troops to be deployed along the Jordanian border with Iraq. In return, the US would lift a naval siege on Aqaba. The Jerusalem-based paper, quoted the un-

named Jordanian official as saying that since Jordan's rejection of the offer, US ships at the entrance of Aqaba have stepped up their interceptions of commercial vessels bound for the country's only port. He warned that such an escalation is intended to halt shipping activities to Aqaba and paralyze Jordan's economy. The paper said that Jordan is worried about a possible distortion campaign against it led by America's allies in the region, especially the Gulf countries. But the paper quoted the Jordanian official as saying that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) officials had admitted to receiving orders from American officials not to improve relations with Jordan.

With the Bush administration facing a probe into what is now called "Iraq-gate" on its pre-Kuwait invasion relations with Iraq, a number of Jordanian officials fear that the American administration will be increasing its pressure on Iraq to maintain its public image. One way of doing this could be to punish Jordan for its alleged role in helping Iraq beat the sanctions.

Jordan is importing its oil from Iraq with the approval of the UN Sanctions Committee. In return, Jordan is supplying Iraq with food and medicine, both of which have been exempted from the sanctions' list. Recently, Jordanian authorities arrested a number of Iraqi merchants charged with breaking the sanctions.

News reports said an investigation into the matter uncovered the complicity of a number of customs officials, most of whom have been charged.

Jordanian officials say that it is virtually impossible to detect all smuggling operations. Jordan has

a long land border with Iraq in a largely uninhabited desert. But Jordanian officials say that Jordan is being singled out while large-scale smuggling into Iraq is taking place from Turkey, Iran and Syria.

Islamists lose outspoken deputy

Lower House deputy (Madaba district) Mr Ahmad Qleah Al Azydeh died last week after a long illness at the age of 46. His death came one day after the passing away of Upper House Senator Mr Khalil Al Saleh. The death of Azydeh, an outspoken Islamist deputy, came as a blow to the Muslim Brotherhood bloc. The late Azydeh was a member of the movement's high command council and was one of the active Islamist members in the House. He was the movement's spokesman and for a long time served as head of the House Public Liberties Committee.

With Azydeh's premature death, by-elections are expected to be held to fill the vacant Madaba seat within the coming two months in accordance with Article 88 of the Constitution. But the same article stipulates that the council of ministers may ask the Lower House to elect a member if by-elections were not possible. This condition was applied in the past to West Bank deputies where elections were not possible because of the Israeli occupation.

As for the vacant Upper House seat, Mr Al Saleh's successor will be named by His Majesty the King.

Steaming hot at the Lower House

Temperatures will continue to rise inside the Lower House of Parliament, which convened on Sunday in a two-month extraordinary session during which deputies will attempt to pass two controversial laws among many others. The draft Parties Law was already creating heated debates minutes after the opening session. Article 3, defining political parties, drew statements from 18 deputies and others will speak in the following session. The Legal Committee had recommended that major amendments be introduced to the draft law.

Regarding Article 3 of the draft law, the committee objected to the government's definition of a party as an organized movement, and to using a number of "broad and non-legal expressions" like "freedom of expression" and "democratic function." The committee also objected to the condition that parties define their programs, saying that programs are subject to change.

The committee recommended that the party be recognized if it is formed under the Constitution and the Law. It defined the party as any Jordanian political group whose objective is to participate in the political life of the country. Zarka deputy Sheikh Abdel Baq Jamno attacked the concept of

Why can't I be like dad...he's a millionaire and he never read a book



pluralism and democracy as imports from the West in conflict with the basic principles of Islam. Amman deputy Ahmad Abadi rejected the law altogether and said Jordanians were not yet ready to embrace political pluralism and that they will have to be prepared for it. Other deputies voiced their reservations for other reasons.

More than 60 draft laws are on the House's agenda for the extraordinary session, including the press and publications, labor and economic crimes.

TCC will not go private

Director General of the Telecommunication Corp. (TCC), Mr Ahmad Al Nawawi, has told Petra news agency that plans for the corporation's privatization have been shelved and that a substitute plan calls for the revitalization of the corporation's law, which gives the TCC financial and administrative independence to function on commercial basis. Mr Nawawi said the TCC is working on modernizing its services and improving the relationship with its customers. But he added that the idea of privatization will have to be reconsidered in the future, as markets everywhere move to end monopolies and decentralize

Money Matters		
Average exchange rates in Jds		
Tuesday 23/6/1992		
	Buy	Sell
US\$	675.0	677.0
£	1249.9	1256.1
DM	427.4	429.1
SFr	473.2	475.6
FRF	127.0	127.6
YEN	529.1	531.7
(100)		
DFL	379.4	381.3
SKR	118.3	118.9
LIT	56.5	56.8
(100)		
BLF	208.6	209.6
(10)		

Deposit Rates					
Euro-deposit rates:					
	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	3.7/8	9.11/16	10.3/8	4.5/8	9.1/4
2 mo.	4.1/2	9.3/4	10.1/8	4.1/2	9.1/4
3 mo.	4.00	9.3/4	10.00	4.5/16	9.1/8
6 mo.	4.5/16	9.11/16	10.00	4.5/16	8.15/16
1 year	4.9/16	9.11/16	9.15/16	4.5/16	8.13/16
Interbank rates (Jordan):					
Savings accounts 5.75%; Call accounts 5.75%; 1 week 6%;					
1 month 7%; 2 months 7.25%; 3 months 7.50%; 1 year 8%.					
Lending rate (AAA) 12%.					
Dollar:					
DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	PFR
LAST 1.5628/35	1.4122/29	1.8645/52	126.99/06	1.1940/46	3.2700/20
Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701					

Man of the hour Can Rabin deliver, now that he's in charge?

AN UNSENTIMENTAL Yitzhak Rabin is the first Labor candidate for premier not to campaign at a kibbutz — and win.

He has fashioned a campaign that strategically pinpointed the floating voters as if they were military targets waiting to be picked off. He has put special emphasis on swing voters: immigrants, first time voters and particularly Sephardim who voted Likud.

"Our salvation will not come from the Left. Our best chance is to target potential voters of the Right," he repeatedly said. Rabin sounded equally un-



News Analysis

mental about peace, voicing no soaring hope in a common future with Arabs. Speaking in his usual deep, slow-taking boss voice, the 70-year-old Rabin replied: "Yes, I think we can be more serious about reaching an autonomy agreement with the Palestinians without hurting our security. This would be the first step. We must fulfill the international obligation that we undertook in 1978 (the Camp David autonomy clauses): we would control the territories, we would also run the foreign affairs, and we would protect the Jewish settlements."

He does not approach the Palestinian issue from a humanitarian perspective. Like many Israeli military men, he believes you can fight many things but not facts, and that Israel cannot swallow so many Palestinians without becoming a binational state.

He also believes the four previous failed electoral attempts of his predecessor and arch rival Shimon Peres have amply demonstrated that one cannot win an election in Israel based on hopes for a shared destiny in a harmonized Middle East.

Usually a worst-case scenario thinker by temperament, Rabin believes peace is not likely to produce the idyllic regional economic common market anytime soon as Peres envisions. However, this is not the only measure of peace. As Rabin sees it, agreements with Egypt and Syria in the past have shown that they defuse threats of war.

Rabin believes the Israeli-Arab peace model is more likely to follow a US-Soviet approach in the 1970s of reducing tensions rather than creating close friendships.

In a monograph written in the journal *Politika* early this year, Rabin suggested that Israel's window of opportunity will only last until the end of this decade, when Iran and other radical states will reassert themselves once they possess nuclear weapons. It is in

To revive a recession-oriented economy and restart immigration, Rabin believes it is essential that Israel re-establish a close relationship with the US.

Rabin, who served as ambassador to the US from 1968 to 1973, views himself as an Americanist. While Shamir's political culture derives from Eastern Europe, and Shimon Peres thrived in the past due to his contacts in Western Europe, Rabin has no patience for any country except the US.

Yitzhak Rabin, born in Jerusalem in 1922, is the son of Eastern European immigrants, Nehemia and Rosa (Cohen) Rabin. Before arriving in Palestine as part of the Jewish Legion contingent in World War I, the Ukrainian-born Nehemia immigrated to the US as a youth and spent 18 years mainly as a tailor in Chicago.

Rosa arrived in Palestine, after fleeing the Russian revolution. She was, however, an ardent believer in socialism and would become very active in labor politics. People who know Rabin claim it was Yitzhak's mother who inspired him to a career in public service. Rosa died when Yitzhak was 15, and he has named that moment as the worst in his life.

In the months following the UN partition vote in 1947, he was in charge of forcing open the Jerusalem corridor road.

During the 1948 War, he led major battles around Jerusalem and it was his Palmah unit which blew up the Palmah arms ship, the *Altalena*.

He remained loyal to Palmah commander Yigal Allon. To this day, Allon's picture hangs in bold display in his office. Rabin rose through the ranks of the Israeli army until becoming chief of staff in 1964. He took very personally the criticism levied by Ben-Gurion that by calling up the reserves, Rabin had escalated the crisis in May 1967. He now says that it contributed to his 24-hour breakdown during that month.

Rabin retired shortly after and was appointed ambassador in Washington, a post he held for five years and in which he acquainted himself with US decision-makers. By not being in Golda Meir's government which experienced the debacle leading up to the Yom

Continued on page 8

After Israel's political bombshell Labor promises Palestinian autonomy within six months

By a Star Staff Writer

THE RESULTS of Tuesday's Israeli elections have been described by Israeli observers as a political bombshell, a major turning point in Israeli politics and as a political coup that ended the Likud's 15-year-old grip on power and returned Israeli politics to a centrist course.

But whether Tuesday's development will escalate the pace of the beleaguered peace process and deliver Palestinian autonomy within six months, as victorious Yitzhak Rabin aides jubilantly announced on the morning after the elections, remains to be seen. One thing is for certain, about 2.5 million Israeli voters went to the polls with a clear choice knowing what the issues were and they voted for a political agenda that promised to salvage the peace process and get the country out of its political and economic quagmire. "It was a vote for peace," an elated Rabin assistant told the BBC at the bustling Labor headquarters on Tuesday evening minutes after the predictions of an exit poll gave Labor and left-wing parties 64 seats in the 120-seat Knesset.

Observers believe Labor and its allies were able to break through Likud defences by winning over the votes of thousands of Soviet immigrants. Final results will be announced on Friday, but unofficial final counting gave Labor 45 seats (up from 39) to Likud's 32 (down from 40). Meretz, a coalition of left-wing parties, got 12 seats (up from 10 in the previous Knesset). As a result, Mr Rabin now has a comfortable majority that will allow him to form a coalition cabinet with Meretz leaving Likud and right-wing parties out in the cold.

Labor's landslide victory surprised everybody including Labor backers. "They have misread the mood of the Israeli public," said one Israeli journalist referring to Likud leadership. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said his political career was over and that he will retire and hand over Likud's leadership.

Observers believed Likud was already in trouble when Shamir was forced to retract his promise to jail Palestinian peace negotiators for meeting in Amman with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last week. Few days before election day, an Israeli poll revealed that a majority of Israeli generals see a need for Israel to give back land in exchange for a political settlement.

Labor promised to impose an immediate freeze on settlement activities in the occupied territories and negotiate in earnest with Palestinians in order to achieve Palestinian autonomy within six months. Palestinian leaders in the West Bank expressed their hope that a Labor-led government will be able to talk substance at the peace talks and move forward on the issues of Palestinian rights and the holding of elections as a prelude to an interim self government.

Arab observers believe the Palestinian leadership had played its cards well in the months and weeks preceding the elections, as did the American administration, which stayed out of internal Israeli politics so as not to give Likud reason to influence the voters.

Jordan will be happy with the latest results as will be all other Arab parties to the peace talks. Jordan's Minister of Information Mr Mahmoud El Sherif told the Star that he received the news of Labor victory with "guarded optimism." He said the change in Israel is probably the "most important fruit of Arab movement towards peace." He said the results of the elections reflected the sharp differences between the two main parties and that the issue of peace has been a decisive element in the victory of the Labor Party.

But he warned that Rabin represents the hawkish movement within the Labor Party and that Arabs should not expect the Israeli position at the negotiating table to turn in their favor overnight. He added that it would be interesting to see how the Bush administration, itself preparing for elections, would react to Rabin's request for loan guarantees. "Will the Bush administration approve the loans in order to appease Jewish votes (in the US) or will it demand more substantial concessions from the Israelis," Mr El Sherif asked.

Arab League Secretary General, Dr Ismat Abdel Maguid, said Labor victory was a positive development and expressed his hope that the new Israeli government would not waste time and would enter into serious negotiations with Arab parties. ■

Continued on page 8

JORDAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN (JUW)

Jordan University for Women (JUW) is offering a summer intensive course in:

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- Basic vocabulary
- Basic grammatical structures (morphology and syntax)

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Scenes from the underwater seascape in Aqaba

US marketing team sees big money in Aqaba scuba diving promotion

By a Star Staff Writer

AN AMERICAN marketing team has submitted a report containing proposals for promoting Aqaba to American scuba divers. The report, done by Third Coast Productions in co-operation with Aquamarina Hotel, Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Royal Diving Center in Aqaba, includes a study of the Royal Diving Center facilities, rates and services, airline and hotel services. In addition to that, the report includes proposals for advertising and promotion in specialized publications around the world and a recommendation to do a commercial promoting Jordan in Scuba World television series.

Already RJ, Aquamarina and a New York-based travel agency are offering a week-long scuba diving package to Aqaba for \$2000. The offer will run until December.

The report estimates that the American market will generate about 15 divers per month with the potential of growing up to 100 per month in three years. "Once Americans experience Jordan and the hospitality of its people... traffic from the US will certainly benefit Jordan's economy," Jim Aden, a marketing director with the group, writes in the report.

The experts hope to increase tourism traffic to Jordan from the United States, to develop a positive image of Jordan, to work within a feasible budget and to prepare Aqaba for increased traffic. They cited three obstacles to doing that: bias and detrimental US press coverage, inaccurate stereotyping of the Middle East by Americans and a limited budget by Jordan to counter negative press.

They proposed a number of "affordable solutions" including the use of a \$28,000 "Scuba World" television series to "spread the real Jordanian story" through 30 second commercials, appearing 1100 times in nationwide broadcasts across the USA, the use of promotional videos to promote "the wonders of Jordan to the travelling American public", an organized positive image press release program in the US press and spot ad purchases in US travel and diving magazines when the publisher will guarantee editorial articles.

The report mentions many positive aspects in Jordan that will help in the promotion from RJ's excellent service to good food prices and quality and well-organized tours; to the friendly attitudes of Jordanians and the television news in English.

Among the negative aspects are trash on the reef, poor technical support on diving boats, selling Jordan diving far below its real value and the need to train more instructors at the Royal Diving Center.

The report concludes that of all destinations the marketing team had covered in the last ten years, Jordan appears to be the most undersold and undervalued. "Considering that the Red Sea is a world class diving destination, pricing and selling of the destination should be modified to fit the stature of the product." The experts also called for the installation of permanent moorings in diving spots because "every anchor drop destroys centuries of reef growth. Your reef is worth billions of dive tourist dollars over the next century. It is a renewable national resource with tremendous potential. Taking care of it must be addressed now," Perry Tong, producer of Scuba World television series concludes.

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Back on the map!

Petra plays host to thousands of tourists

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

THERE ARE now clear signs that Jordan's tourist industry is picking up again after the post Gulf War slump which brought the number of tourists down to the zero point.

According to the latest assessments from the Ministry of Tourism, there is now a daily flow of tourists to Petra ranging between 1000 to 1500, and the number is expected to climb this summer to over 2000. A further 20 percent increase is also anticipated for the year 1993.

"There is tremendous demand for accommodation for visitors to Petra. The hotels available around the Petra site in the Wadi Moussa area can barely absorb them," said Nasri Atallah, secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism.

He added that the guests cannot be hosted overnight by the only two hotels on the site, the Petra Forum and the Government Rest House, whose room capacity can satisfy only one eighth of the current demand. Hence, visitors are obliged to go back to their hotels in Amman the very same day. This is especially uncomfortable for older visitors, who are obliged to travel another 262 km after a long day of bus and horse riding, walking and sightseeing.

Considering the increasing demand for accommodation for visitors, the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Petra Trust Fund (both are assigned to protect the environment and antiquities in the Wadi Moussa area), have launched a campaign for the building of new hotels and are encouraging the private sector to invest in hotel chains. These hotels have been strictly defined by the Royal Archaeological Committee for Petra as being two-storey buildings, made of pinkish and rose-colored stone extracted locally from the Wadi Moussa area.

"Together with the Royal Archaeological Committee for Petra we have set regulations and guidelines for hotel constructors," said Mr Atallah. "The buildings will be situated between Wadi Moussa town and the village of Taiba, giving more of a rural impression by their architecture. They should be complementary to the environment, hidden from the antiquities' sights by a mountain and not overlooking the Petra site."

Three private companies have already responded positively to the campaign so far, and the Petra Forum is in the process of building 80 additional rooms while the Rest House is doubling its room capacity. It is hoped that their extensions will be complete by next year.

Extra hotels mean more campaigns directed at foreign tourist markets, and increased campaigning assumes more promotions and incentives for investments in renovation, restoration and reconstruction. According to Mr Atallah, the Ministry of Tourism, together with the private and public sector, have distributed their budget for this year and have made precise plans for reviving Jordanian tourism.

The government, for example, allocated JD 600,000 for a campaign of the Jordanian market which started the second week in June.

The campaign will include a TV show contest featuring 67 German girls who share the name 'Petra'. They will be invited to Jordan along with German tour operators who are interested in adding Jordan to their touristic schedules. Their visits will be free of charge and air fares will be granted by Royal Jordanian Airways.

"Excessive interest and consideration has been given to the Jordanian market because before the Gulf crisis Germany was our number one customer. They completely abandoned us after the war," said Mr Atallah.

Italy is currently the country showing the greatest interest in Jordanian tourism. Owing to the efforts of HM Queen Noor and the campaign conducted by Royal Jordanian in Italy, the response is still ascending.

"Since 1987, when we signed an agreement with Royal Jordanian appointing them to represent the interests of Jordanian tourism on the traditional European market, we have successfully conducted many touristic campaigns promoting our culture. The campaigns in Italy, Germany and the Expo '92 in Spain are an expression of this fruitful cooperation and coordination," said Mr Atallah.

Jerash festival enters its second decade

THE JERASH Festival National Higher Committee, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, held a press conference in Amman this week on the occasion of the start of the second decade for the Jerash festival.

Director of the festival, Mr Akram Masarwah, addressed the journalists and introduced the festival's broad strategic plans and objectives, which he said pointed the Jerash event towards being "the recognized and acknowledged festival of festivals throughout the coming decade."

The eleventh Jerash festival was announced to be tackling three principal fields of interest: The first will address the adult audience and will present the premiere showing of the play 'The Rainmaker', written by Syrian playwright Douraid Laham. There will also be concerts performed by Julia Boutros and Milham Barakat.

The second field will focus attention on providing a program for the younger audience, which will be run in Amman in the mornings. Shows will include the children's play 'The Happy Bird', written by and featuring Douraid Laham and presentations by the Royal Cultural Centre's Ballet Group, The Arab Music Institute and the Haya Cultural Centre.

The third field emphasizes Arab poetry, in which promising Arab poets will compete for three top places, and will be awarded certificates of merit.

In his addressing speech, Mr Masarwah offered constructive criticism about past experiences and discussed insufficient local participation. He expressed hopes that "local groups will be able to overcome their unique set of circumstances and take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the festival in the near future."

Closing his speech, Mr Masarwah expressed his deep sense of appreciation to Her Majesty the Queen for her continued support, patronage and guidance, and thanked all official, national and private institutions and individuals for helping the festival "continue to serve as an intellectual, cultural and artistic form."



Islamic calligraphy and the Raj

Important collections of 18th and 19th century calligraphy indicate that the men who formed them had more than a passive relationship with this particular aspect of Islamic art.

By Peter Morgan

OXFORD, ENGLAND — In contrast to miniature painting, which was the main feature of late 18th and early 19th century interest in Islamic art, calligraphy demands the active involvement of the collector — and a more intimate knowledge of Islamic culture. It is not surprising therefore that the major public holdings of calligraphy in Oxford and London were amassed either by servants of the East India Company or diplomats for whom a knowledge of Oriental languages and scripts was a professional necessity.

The principal collections of Persian and Indian calligraphy in Oxford are held by the Bodleian Library and the Ashmolean Museum and were recently exhibited. The works are not so well known outside Britain and are fine examples of the different scripts in use in the subcontinent during and after the Mughal period.

Two notable Bodleian collections were formed by the Ouseley brothers, Sir William Ouseley (1767-1842) and Sir Gore Ouseley (1770-1848). The older of the two, William, resigned his army commission in 1794 to take up Oriental studies in Leiden, having become interested in Persian while studying in Paris in 1787. Although he did not apparently visit the East until 1811, when he accompanied his brother on a diplomatic mission to the Persian court, his enthrallment of 1831 indicates that he had acquired about 400 of his total of 731 manuscripts before 1800.

William became a prolific translator of Persian poetical and historical works but also published in 1795 a practical guide to the translation of Persian scripts; *Persian Miscellanies*, which he dedicated to Earl Moira, later the Marquess of Hastings, governor-general of Fort William in Bengal from 1813 to 1823. This was one of a number of Persian textbooks produced in Britain and India for soldiers and officials from the late 18th century onwards which employed both lithography and moveable type.

A manuscript in the Bodleian Library from William Ouseley's collection, with Persian phrases

and their English equivalents, has numerous references to Indian life and may have been written by or with the help of his brother.

William's collection of calligraphy is not extensive — some 58 pieces including practice pages in his own hand. The collection of his young brother, on the other hand, spans many periods and styles. Gore Ouseley moved to India in 1787 and established a successful cloth factory in Dacca while occupying his leisure time in the study of "Persian, Bengalese, Hindu and a little Arabic and Sanskrit."

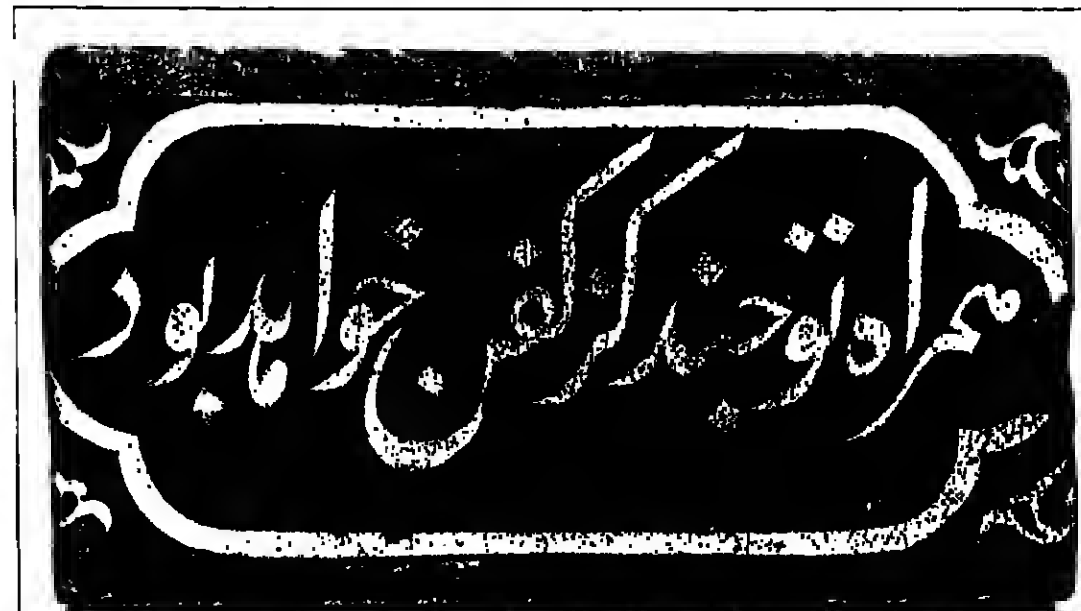
In the early 1790s he went to Lucknow and eventually entered the service of Saadat Ali, the Nawab Vizier of Oudh (1798-1814), on the recommendation of Lord Mornington. Whilst he was there, Gore cultivated "a good understanding between the state of Oudh and the British power in its policy against French intrigue with Shah Alam, the Mughal Emperor in Delhi." So successful was he in these endeavors that he was rewarded with a patent of nobility from Shah Alam. Some of the correspondence between the two is now in the Bodleian Library.

It was Gore's ability to reproduce the style of Persian court language and his mastery of the more intractable scripts that made him the natural choice to be *nikh-mandari* to Mirza Abul Hassan in London, and eventually ambassador-extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Persian court.

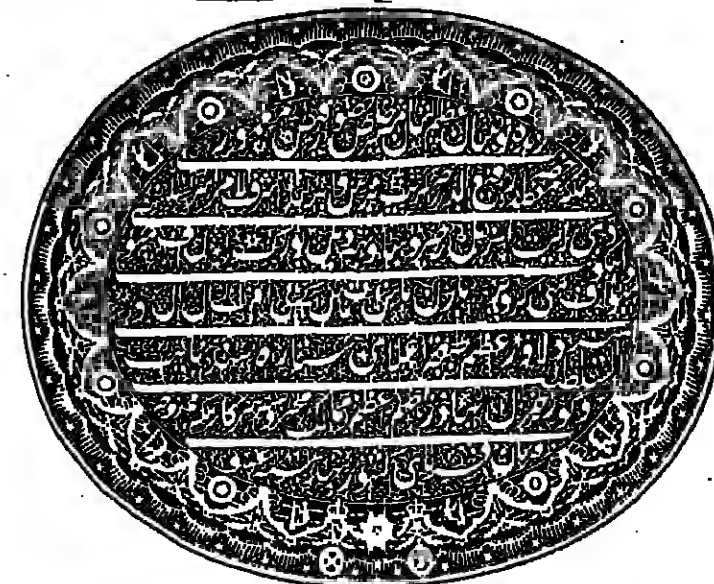
When he arrived in Tehran in November 1811 together with his brother William, James Morier (the author of *Hajji Baba of Isfahan*), and his wife and daughter, Gore Ouseley was well equipped to impress the Persians. He successfully concluded a definitive treaty between Iran and Britain, receiving from Fath Ali Shah the Order of the Lion and Sun in recognition of his services.

In his retirement Gore Ouseley became a founder member of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1823 and president of the Society for the Publication of Oriental Texts in 1842 and diverted himself by "drawing, painting, emblematizing and illuminating."

The largest collections containing the best specimens of calligraphy



17th-18th century tile from Multan, Pakistan. The inscription, "How many yards long do you want your coffin?" suggests that the ceramic piece may have come from a mausoleum.



Impression of seal of Lord Mornington, later Marquess Wellesley, governor-general of Fort William, Bengal.

to have his bookplate engraved with the impression of a seal bearing his would-be titles.

The use of seals was a fundamental part of commercial and political practice in Europe, India and Iran. European merchants

were quick to appreciate the value of having seals with their own names transliterated into Persian. The officials of the East India Company, as theoretical servants of the Mughal empire, had official seals which bore the titles and honorifics bestowed on them by the emperor. These usually contained four or five lines of *nasta'liq* together with Hijri and Christian dates and incorporated the owner's English titles in transliteration.

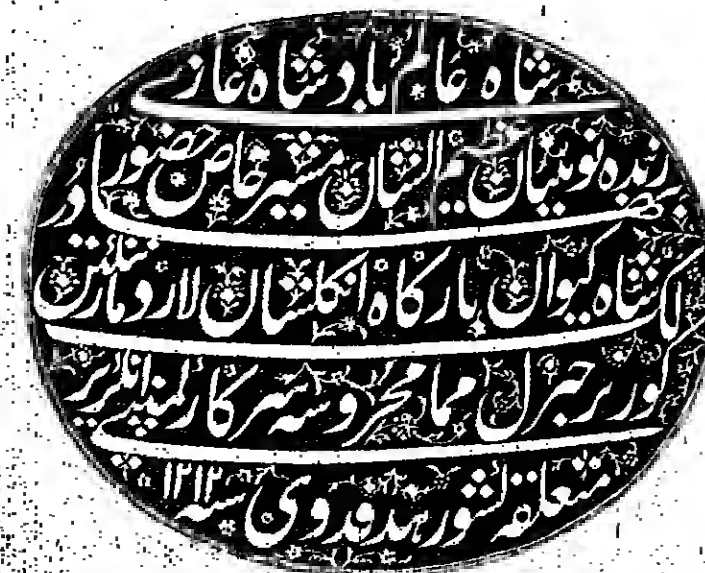
The India Office Library has a series of seals belonging to the governors-general and viceroys of India which range in date from 1798 to 1869. These show both changes in the political relationship between Britain and India and changes in decorative style. The early seals, such as that of Lord Mornington, dated 1798, follow a relatively simple, established decorative formula which emphasizes the content, whereas by 1869, 11 years after the establishment of the vice-regency,

seals such as that of the Earl of Mayo are heavily embellished with British heraldic devices. The honorifics similarly embody the changing relationship of the British to the Mughal court.

For instance, the word indicating that the governor-general and his officials were the "servants" of the Mughal Emperor *ladwi* was relegated to the end of Lord Mornington's titles by 1798 and was dropped completely by 1820.

The European interest in and use of Oriental scripts had its serious side, since it was an adjunct of colonial policy. Although many aspects of the colonial relationship are open to criticism, some individuals, whose careers brought them into intimate contact with Islam and the literary and artistic traditions of both the subcontinent and Iran, developed a relationship with these cultures beyond the requirements of administration. One wonders to which deity Sir Gore Ouseley appealed when, on his deathbed on 18 November 1844, he prayed in Persian.

Peter Morgan is an art historian and archaeologist based in Oxford.



Seal belonging to Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India 1869-1872

Light on Vietnam's 'last dark secret'

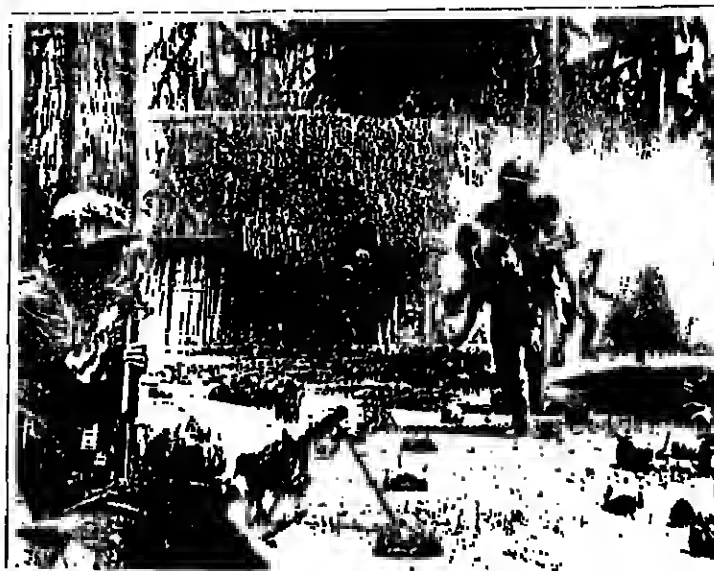
By Shirley Rizvi

LONDON — In the first flush of the triumphalism that followed the Gulf War in 1991, President George Bush announced to an ecstatic nation of Americans: "Thank God the Vietnam syndrome is buried forever." Whatever its context, in hindsight the president's statement was over-optimistic because, far from being dispelled, the ghosts of Vietnam continue to visit upon the American psyche. As long as men and women have feelings and people have souls, it seems, Vietnam will figure as an ugly scar on the human experience.

Atrocities carried out by both sides during the Vietnam war have dogged the consciences of everyone who has had firsthand or even second-hand knowledge of what went on in the jungles and villages of Vietnam. Not all of those atrocities have come to light, however.

While film makers, writers and journalists have attempted to probe, in fictional accounts, the hearts of darkness of those involved and document the true nature of war and its chilling effects, many facts have remained hidden. Official attempts to cover up the misdeeds and individual or institutional reluctance have left accounts of killings outside the normal business of war incomplete.

This may be changing somewhat. More than 20 years later, the lid may finally be coming off what has been described as "the last dark secret of the Vietnam War." An extraordinarily detailed account of the massacre of the innocent in Vietnam has just been published. It raises questions of who is ultimately responsible and whether the shame of



At My Lai women, children and babies were massacred

Vietnam will ever be buried without a true manifestation of justice.

Four Hours in My Lai, by British journalists Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim, presents a numbing catalog of the cold blooded massacre of 400 unarmed men, women, children and babies in an unresisting South Vietnamese village and the reluctance of the US government under Richard Nixon to submit to an independent inquiry.

On 16 March 1968, more than 120 GIs from a unit of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade ran amok in My Lai. The scenes meticulously researched and described by Bilton and Sim would make Hollywood's version of barbaric warfare during the Middle Ages seem like child's play.

The soldiers involved were a "normal cross-section of American youth," many of whom are now carrying on what on the sur-

face seems a normal American way of life.

Yet it took these apparently normal soldiers from Charlie Company a mere four hours to devastate the village and secure their place in the annals of barbarous behavior. In that short period, old men were stabbed with bayonets; tiny babies were shot through their heads while still in their mother's arms; women were raped, sodomized and then mutilated and butchered.

"One woman was killed when the muzzle of a rifle was inserted into her private parts and the trigger pulled. Soldiers repeatedly stabbed their victims, cut off their limbs, sometimes cut off their heads," reads the book.

Despite the presence of a large contingent of the world media in Saigon and on the frontlines, it took almost a year for the news of the atrocities to filter out of

Vietnam.

At first it was denied by the US military, but as it became apparent that attempts at a cover-up would strengthen the case of the antiwar protesters, the military's media managers admitted the massacre had taken place but referred to it only as "a tragedy of major proportions."

It shocked Americans as much as it did the rest of the world. But at the time no one asked for details and not many witnesses were available or willing to talk. President Nixon's pledges of justice resulted in the conviction of one man, Lieutenant William Calley.

Calley was by no means the only person involved in the killing but the White House was worried of his war record in a memo from General Alexander Haig, who wrote: "There is no individual under investigation, charged or convicted in any case (resulting from the Vietnam War) whose crime can even remotely be said to equal that of Calley."

It was Calley who, weeks before My Lai, threw a defenseless old man down a well and then shot him. It was Calley who, seeing a baby at My Lai crawling away from a ditch already filled with dead and dying villagers, seized the child by the leg, threw it back in the pit, and shot it. "No one," Haig's White House memo concluded, "should undertake to advise the president, who is not fully informed of the sordid facts."

Calley was charged with killing "Oriental human beings." He was sentenced to life imprisonment but was released after only a few months and now runs a jewelry store in Columbus, Georgia.

Bilton and Sims spent two years investigating and research-

ing the events. Their book is based on eyewitness accounts by soldiers, surviving victims and the complete records of the US Army's official investigation into the killings. Their description of the orgy of carnage raises questions on the type of training young men receive before they are armed with real weapons and sent out to defend an abstract cause.

Most of those involved in the hushed argument that they were "only carrying out orders" but Calley's reasons highlight the "moral vacuum" into which most of the young GIs found themselves marching.

He wrote in his memoir *Body Count*: "We weren't in My Lai to kill human beings, really. We were there to kill the ideology that is carried by — I don't know, Pavlov. Blubs. Pieces of flesh. And I wasn't in My Lai to destroy intelligent men. I was there to destroy an intangible idea. To destroy communism... I looked at communism as a southerner looks at a Negrin, supposedly. It's evil. It's bad."

While the more hardened veterans of My Lai still seek to justify their deeds there are those like Varando Simpson, who lives a "private hell" alone in his house in Jackson, Mississippi, unable to forgive himself.

With no justice done for the hundreds of victims of My Lai, one can't help asking if the shame of Vietnam will ever go away. ■

FOUR HOURS IN MY LAI: A WAR CRIME AND ITS AFTERMATH. By Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim. Published by Viking. 430 pages. £17.99. Hardback. ISBN 0-670-83233-2.



Harvesting sugar cane

a gasification process used, more than twice as much power could be generated.

Even without the possibility of generating electricity, there is already a great deal of interest in Brazil's alcohol from sugar cane program among the oil-scarce countries around the world that possess the large areas of land on which cane could be grown.

Now, as new technology is developed, the third-by-product of sugar cane — electricity — makes the crop even more attractive. ■

Patrick Knight is a Sao Paulo-based journalist

New energy for Brazil's sugar-cane fuel program

By Patrick Knight

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL: Brazil's pioneering fuel program, in which four million of the country's cars are powered by alcohol distilled from sugar cane, is in the doldrums.

The fuel program was set up with a great fanfare in the late 1970s, when the high price of oil threatened to bring the country to a standstill.

The sugar-cane fuel sold for three-quarters of the price of petrol and, a couple of years ago, nine out of 10 new cars were fitted with alcohol-burning engines.

But rather than continuing to rise, as seemed likely a decade ago, the price of oil has fallen steadily. While the cost of distilling a barrel of alcohol has been out from US\$60 to less than US\$50, the price of oil has some- times dip below US\$20 a barrel.

The sugar-cane industry claims it costs more to produce alcohol from the cane than the government allows it to charge for the fuel, and production has stagnated.

But the key to reviving the lagging industry could lie in more efficient production of the electricity that is generated from sugar-cane waste.

Demand for the sugar-cane fuel has continued to rise and last year the industry found itself in the embarrassing position of not having enough to meet the need. More than a billion litres of methanol fuel had to be imported to keep the cars running.

To produce the 13 billion litres of alcohol fuel set as a target, as well as to refine the 7 million tonnes of sugar consumed in Brazil each year, close to 30 million hectares are planted with cane each year. This is equivalent to three-quarters of the land on which all of Brazil's soya, maize, rice, cotton and bean crops are grown.

Last year's ideal weather produced a record crop of 235 million tonnes of cane, a third of the world's total. To put that in perspective, the second largest producer, India, grows a little more than 100 million tonnes a year.

Brazil spent about US\$2 billion to set up the alcohol fuel program, but the industry has not been able to make enough profit in recent years to pay off its debts.

The widespread use of sugar-cane fuel has been criticized by oil companies. They say that if the money spent on setting up the program and subsidizing the fuel

had been spent searching for oil, the country would now be close to self-sufficiency.

Brazil invested in an extensive 10-year exploration program and now produces more than half the oil it consumes. Major offshore finds of oil means self-sufficiency could become a reality.

Now, ironically, the alcohol program produces the fuel the country least needs — a substitute for petrol. Because of the alcohol program, Brazil finds itself exporting large quantities of petrol each year, while importing some diesel fuel to power the country's trucks.

In the process of distilling the alcohol and refining the sugar, 55 million tonnes of sugar cane waste — bagasse — is produced.

Over the years, the industry has progressed from buying half the electricity it needs to generating more than 90 per cent of it by burning bagasse, and selling some surplus power as well. The remaining bagasse is sold to other industries, or used to feed cattle.

However, electricity has also been subsidised and those who generate it privately have been paid only about a third of what it costs to produce. But subsidies

are being cut.

To survive without subsidies, the alcohol industry will have to become more efficient. While the development of new varieties of cane and improvements in the refining process have cut the cost of alcohol fuel, it still remains considerably more expensive than oil.

It has been calculated that the cane could produce as much as 10 per cent of Brazil's electricity, some 4,000 megawatts (MW), if all the 55 million tonnes of bagasse were burnt in the most efficient boiler available.

And if the industry was paid a proper price for it, it could earn up to \$1 billion a year — more than half the industry's current earnings.

At the moment, standing sugar cane is burnt in the fields to remove its sharp leaves and kill pests. This reduces its weight by a quarter, with half its calorific value going up in smoke. Burning cane makes manual cutting, which employs 750,000 workers, far safer than if unburnt cane were used.

If burnt cane was used to produce electricity, 2,000 MW could be generated, earning US\$200 million. But if the cane was cut by machine before it is burnt and

By Sophia Morolin

NEARLY A year after the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was closed down in the United States, Britain and several other countries, the shock of its failure continues to reverberate. But, after the jolt that the BCCI's closure represented for thousands of its depositors, bigger issues remain unresolved. Foremost among them is the question: Have any lessons at all been learned by the operators of the other international financial institutions?

To that the answer must be: Apparently not. From the beginning to its end, the West's crack-down on the BCCI was cloaked as much in a "them-and-us" attitude as in a xenophobic reporting of the events connected with its fall. These attitudes have gone some way in helping other elements of the world's banking community to distance themselves from the personalities and actions that doomed the BCCI. "We are not like them; it can't happen to us," seems to be the stock conclusion of many among the bankers and financiers.

They are wrong, of course, and James Ring Adams and Douglas Frantz are out to stress this point with ample justification. Authors of *A Full Service Bank*, a book published by Simon and Schuster and hailed as the best researched expose of the BCCI affair, Adams and Frantz are out to warn the banking community against complacency since, they say, what happened to the BCCI could happen to any other errom bank. And there are a clutch of them still around.

"Could this happen again?" they ask. "Even now, is another financial institution bending and breaking the rules in the service of its own grand enterprise, robbing the poor and giving to the rich? The answer must be yes, for history is replete with swindlers large and small."

Adams and Frantz have brought their skills of investigative journalism to the book, which they began researching some two years ago. Adams is an old hand at trucking down bent bankers and sundry other people who play with other people's money, having written previously *The Secret History of the Tax Revolt* and *The Big Fix: Inside the S&L Scandal*. Frantz is a reporter with *The Los Angeles Times* and author of *Levine & Co. and From the Ground Up: The Business of Building in the Age of Money*.

Having related in exemplary detail, somewhat in the style of a slick drama, the countdown to disaster that the BCCI invited upon itself, the authors concede that there may have been some truth in the argument of the bank's defenders that the BCCI was "only engaging in activities pursued by many other big international banks."

They explain that "as sophisticated bankers the world over channel money through a maze of bank secrecy havens and front companies with the push of a computer button, opportunities for corruption on a world scale are almost endless."

The great lesson of the way in which the BCCI was caught out and then closed may lie, they say, in the surprising vulnerability of international banking regulations. "A lasting value of that lesson depends on recognizing exactly where those weak points are located and how they can be strengthened, if not eliminated."

Yet a year later the world's banking institutions remain more or less as they were — secretive and resentful of change, envious

Missed messages from the BCCI affair

of competitors and prepared to bend rules to suit their interests.

The authors cite the way in which the BCCI exploited the vulnerability of international regulations to become a bank "that was located everywhere and regulated nowhere. This is the most glaring regulatory failure exposed by the BCCI scandal."

However, past examples show that other banks have operated in the same way, some with impunity, and governments have been unable to control them. The BCCI was used by money launders and secret agents. Was it the first bank ever used by secret agents? The authors are right to argue

that much of the modern world banking system is mired in confusing and contradictory regulations. There is too much that doesn't work together. "Global financial systems have been constructed without the global coordination and laws needed to keep them honest," they assert. "The existing patchwork of financial regulation is decades behind the times — and the crooks."

A minimum requirement for the banking community should be to establish uniform standards for banks that do business across borders. "Most important among these requirements must be home-country supervision in

which a single regulatory authority has the information-gathering tools to supervise an institution's activities worldwide."

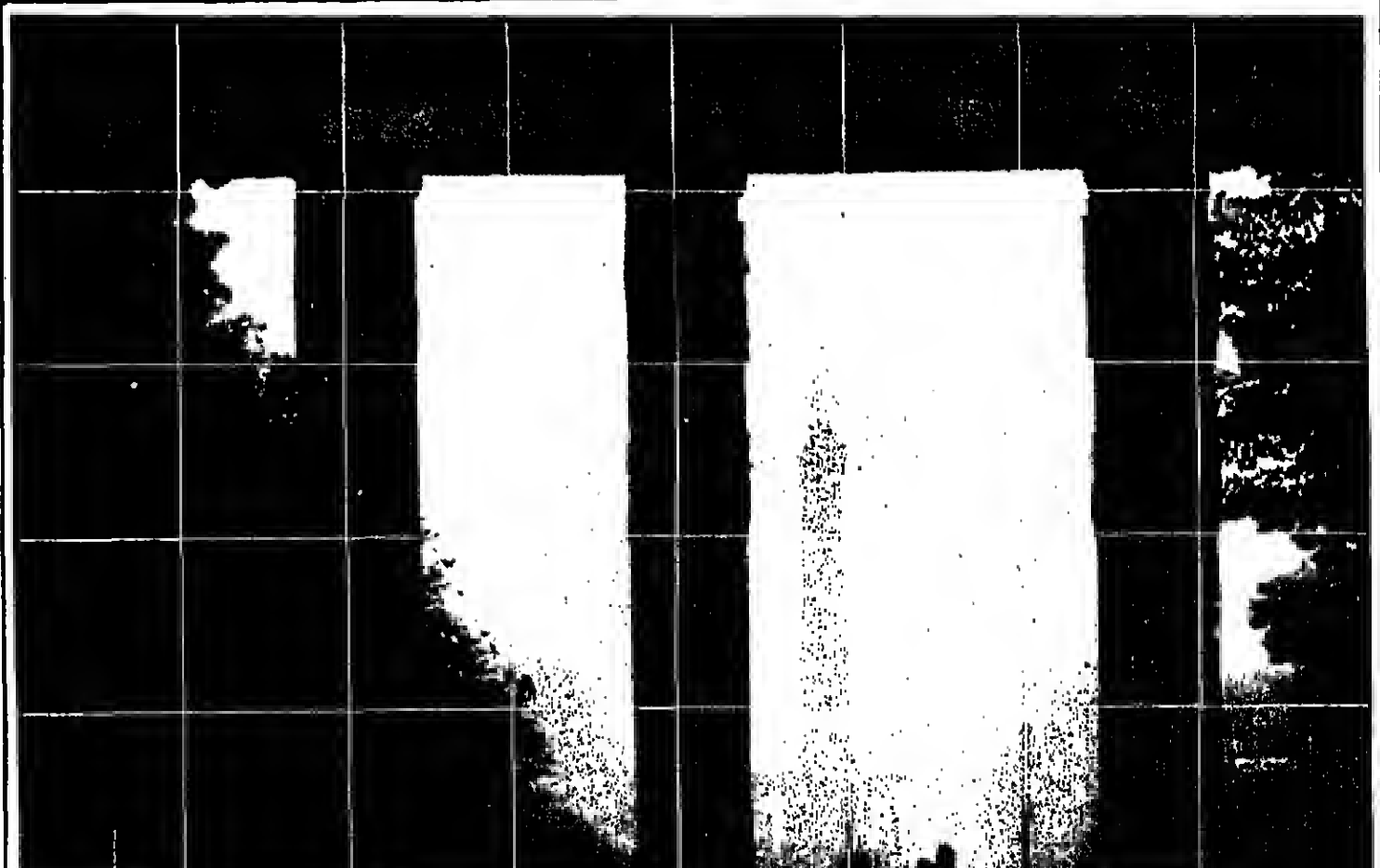
As a sequel to the BCCI affair, the US Federal Reserve Board and Congress have established strict standards for entry and exit of foreign banks within the United States. Under the rules, no foreign bank can do business in the United States unless its books and records have been open to full inspection by regulators in the country where it is based. With foreign bank operations controlling more than a fifth of the banking assets in the United States, Adams and Frantz

point out that the legislation is essential.

The authors point out, however, that the regulators need to go a few steps further and make sure that information is shared with other countries where a bank may be operating. "There will always be countries that refuse to participate in such international accords," they acknowledge, and suggest that those institutions which choose to shroud themselves in secrecy must be "recognized as pariahs and their activities restricted severely. There is a chance that the next BCCI will not be so devastating to unsuspecting customers and to faith in governing institutions." ■

Academic File

A FULL SERVICE BANK: How BCCI Stole Millions Around the World. By James Ring Adams and Douglas Frantz. 381 pp.



BERLIN

Inch by inch we are covering the world

Berlin, the cross road of East and West Europe, Royal Jordanian invites you to the culturally rich city of Berlin. Effective from June 26, we will serve you with twice weekly non-stop flights on board our Airbus A310 as per the following schedule:

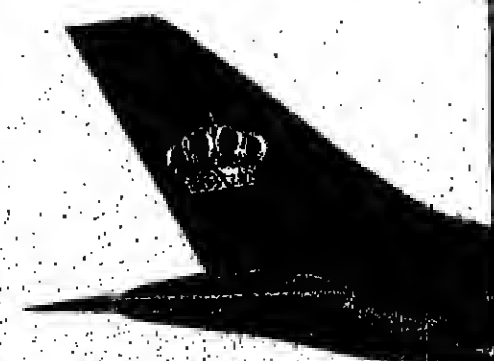
	Day	Depart	Arrive
Amman	Wed. & Fri.	11:35 a.m.	03:10 p.m.
Berlin	Thur. & Sat.	02:00 p.m.	07:30 p.m.

This is an addition to our four weekly flights to Frankfurt. For your comfort and convenience Royal Jordanian is adding yet another destination to its existing operations to Germany, providing you with greater schedule flexibility.

For more information and reservations please contact your travel agent or Royal Jordanian offices.

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Jalal Rifa'i/Ad-Dustour

Our Say....

Israel's Labor choice

IT WOULD be premature for the Arabs to celebrate Yitzhak Rabin's stunning victory over Likud in Israel's general elections this week. In spite of the Labor Party leader's different approach to most of the complicated issues at the Middle East peace negotiating table — compared to those of his outgoing predecessor — the Arabs and particularly the Palestinians must bear in mind that Mr Rabin was voted in by Israeli, and not Arab, voters. Mr Rabin's responsibility as Israel's new premier is to safeguard Israel's interests and not those of the Arabs.

Still, it would be naive to hide our enthusiasm at Mr Rabin's election. The fact that he will lead a harmonious coalition where radicals and right-wingers are not represented is an added advantage. The 70-year-old prime minister will have little excuse not to carry out his promise to reactivate the stalled peace process and get his negotiators to delve into substantial issues.

But just as we advertise our newly-acquired optimism about the prospects of peace in this region, we must be aware of the all-encompassing political consequences of Mr Rabin's election. Unlike the defeated Mr Shamir, the new prime minister brandishes the slogan of pragmatism and he will use his reputation as a pragmatist to change Israel's image as an intransigent state, one which the Likud had cemented for years. While Shamir's policies increased Israel's isolation and fractured US-Israeli relations, Mr Rabin's priority will be to restore these relations and unveil a new Israel — a country which aspires for peace and coexistence with its Arab neighbors.

We have no doubt in our minds that Mr Rabin means business. He has campaigned for the last few months on the basis of "territorial compromise" and has committed his party to freezing the settlements and preparing for Palestinian autonomy. But we also know for a fact that Mr Rabin will attempt to yield the most dividends without giving up much. Still remaining are the complex issues of Israel's acceptance of UN resolutions, the fate of Palestine refugees, Palestinian self-determination and Israel's withdrawal from Arab territory. Mr Rabin is vague when it comes to the details of his peace scenario with the Arabs. Our task will be to force him to state his position clearly on these and other issues.

The Arabs must not allow Mr Rabin to make these gains without having him pay for them. It is true that the intractable Mr Shamir and his associates are no longer facing their Arab negotiators, but that is not the main issue. The peace agenda remains the same, the prerequisites for a just and durable peace remain unchanged and Palestinian rights are as lawful today as they were yesterday. These are the facts that Mr Rabin's negotiators will have to come to grips with next month in Rome when the peace talks resume.

It is imperative that the United States, which has committed itself to the success of the peace process, be as demanding and as unrelenting as it was when Shamir was in power. For peace to be delivered, the basic issues must be addressed within the context of international laws and UN resolutions.

In the meantime, the Arabs who are party to the peace talks must maintain a unified stand, as they sit before their Israeli negotiators. Now that the peace process will be moving once more, the Arabs will have to prioritize their demands as they search for a comprehensive political settlement to the Arab-Israeli problem.

Deputies adopt the wrong cause

By Ayman Al Safadi

INSTEAD OF calling for the consolidation of the political process that ended years of unrepresentative government and provided them with forums from which they are supposed to address the concerns of the people, some Lower House deputies are questioning the viability of democracy in Jordan, bluntly saying that the Jordanian public does not have the political maturity necessary to render the process a success.

In appalling statements that could only be interpreted as an insult to each and every Jordanian, Amman deputy Ahmad Abbadi condescendingly says that his electorate still cannot embrace democracy and pluralism. Zarka deputy Abdel Baqi Jamra claims monopoly on truth, saying that democracy conflicts with Islam and is not the right seed for the Jordanian soil. Such statements are at least unacceptable, deplorable, and resonate with obliquity.

By promoting such archaic concepts, these deputies are echoing the same excuses that many dictators all over the world had used to justify maintaining their grip on power and keeping the public at bay from the decision making circles. The fact that our elected representatives are repeating the same clichés is an ominous sign that blackens the future of democracy in Jordan.

Mr Abbadi wants to educate Jordanians on democracy before giving them passing marks to exercise pluralism. It is ironic that he wants to achieve his goal by denying them their basic right to freely express their views on their future. One could argue that if the Jordanian public lacks the necessary intellect to cope with democracy, how could their representatives at the Lower House claim legitimacy? How could "politically immature" citizens make a sober decision about who should serve them?

What many among us seem to forget is that democracy cannot be preached and, by the same token, cannot be imposed. No people can aspire to political freedom and social harmony without walking the road on their own, making mistakes along the way and learning from their mistakes.

In a region where authoritarian rule has been the norm, Jordan has taken the lead in attempting to break away from this ugly tradition by involving its citizens in the affairs of their government. While we are far from reaching an ideal stage, our process of democratization has been moving steadily.

Pushing the process forward is what we cast our votes for. Members of Parliament should either live to the enormous task with which the people have entrusted them or should move out of the way. A nation that boasts the highest literacy rate in the region can produce people who understand the needs of their constituencies and can move the country forward.

Political pluralism is not a foreign concept that should be viewed as a danger to society. It is a political environment in which nations prosper and peoples ensure the accountability of their governments. It provides ordinary citizens with the power to influence the political, social and economic structures of their country.

People, who for no fault of their own, do not fully understand the mechanisms of democracy cannot be taught to adequately deal with them by imposing upon them the same patronizing mentality that estranged them from that way of life in the first place. No member of society, especially an elected official, should hurry himself in the arrogance of intellectual superiority if he wants to serve his nation.

And elected officials who fail to rise to the expectations of their electorate and perform the duties for which they were elected should be removed from office in the same way they were brought into it: through the ballot box. By learning to understand and live with these facts of political life, democracy and pluralism in Jordan will prosper.

It is the people who gave these deputies their mandate, and it is the people who have the right to withdraw it. Denying them their right is regression and no Jordanian will vote for that.

Ayman Al Safadi is a Jordanian journalist.

Rabin: Man of the hour

Continued from page 3

Kippur War in 1973, he was not tainted by the Agranat Commission investigation. After a short stint as labor minister, Rabin was elected by Meir, Pinhas Sapir and others to lead the wounded party in 1974 and thereby block the ascendancy of Peres.

With party backing, Rabin won Round One against Peres but incurred his lasting bitter enemy. The duo's rivalry has since cast its shadow over the party for the last 18 years.

Rabin succeeded in securing the two disengagement agreements with Egypt, brokered by the US, which paved the way for Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem a couple of years later. A similar such disengagement agreement was signed with Syria. Rabin authorized the Entebbe rescue raid and stayed out of the civil war in Lebanon. He paid secret visits to meet leaders in Iran and disguised himself during a trip to Morocco. He was the only Israeli premier to institute municipal elections for Palestinians. Rabin's government ended abruptly with the disclosure of his wife Leah's illegal bank account in the US.

He believes that floating voters need to be comfortable more with the principles Rabin stands for and thus overcome the stigma that Likud voters associated with Labor in the past. Top Labor aides say that Likud has in the past baited Labor to adopt position papers only to pounce on specific points and obscure the broader theme.

While the early part of Labor's campaign has focused on the glories of the Six Day War and the trauma of the Lebanon war, Rabin now finally found his stride by focusing not on the wars of the past but potentially of the future. Peace with security is needed to avert the next war, a nuclear war in the Middle East, Rabin intoned somberly on television. He lets Peres and others draw a portrait of how a transformed Middle East will look, while he concentrates on how to get there.

The Jerusalem Post

Omani women move ahead with grace and dignity

By Hussain Shehadeh
Special to The Star



Members of the Omani Women's Society

VISITING OMAN recently, I was fired by the desire to speak to the women of the country — to find out how they coped with combining their careers with the dictates of the country's traditional values concerning the roles of wife and mother.

To do this I met with some leading members of the country's Women's Society — Mayan Zawawi, Vice President Batool Hassan, Head of Public Relations Hayat Sultan and Masomah Hameed, leader of kindergarten teacher training.

We sat on the carpeted floor as custom has it, in a semi-circle, the women in their fine robes and veils. In this country, steeped in Islam and its teaching, I wanted to probe these women's ideas and attitudes regarding a wide spectrum of topics. At all times I found them erudite, concise and unexpectedly candid in their replies.

I first asked Batool Hassan how she saw the position of women in contemporary Omani society. I pointed out that the West has formed a definite image of the relationship between men and women in the Arab world — a hierarchy where men are placed firmly on the top and women "know their place." This vision of the Arab world is taken to be inclusive, with little heed paid to possible differences in individual countries. I was interested to know whether Oman diverged in any way from the blanket impression held by the West.

Batool was inclusive in her comments, and pointed out an unexpectedly liberated picture of Omani women. She feels their achievements have been especially substantial during the past few decades — they have been deeply involved in developments within the social and financial spheres, as well as in the field of health.

The period in the Oman from 1970 to 1990 is known as the "Modern Renaissance," and Batool pointed out that during this period women gained many rights. As to the reality of equal rights between men and women, she said, "They work on an equal footing... in the public sector. Competence and ability are the most important factors."

Today in Oman we see women working in, and indeed running, schools and hospitals, as well as performing their skills as architects, deputy ministers and a host of other professions.

Mayan Zawawi also explained that equality between men and women is not a far-off dream, but that it has become a reality within the framework of Islam. She emphasized that the evolutionary process of egalitarianism must be expressed within the Islamic ethic. That, in unison with the rights and freedom of women to administer their own property and money, means that women must show a concomitant restraint — a temperance of their liberation with the rights and obligations owed towards family and husband.

The process is not automatic, but is a complicated, developing one.

"I think that in Oman we have realized what one might call a 'complex formula' — a sort of reasonable balance," she said.

I wondered if this "reasonable balance", a kind of Aristotelian golden mean, could be adequately communicated to the fundamentalists in society? Mayan assured me it could, and said that Islam itself supersedes any break-away sect or factionalism, and like any solid foundation can absorb detours from its center.

Many of the answers I was hearing would have made good sense in the emerging feminist cultures of the 1960s in Europe and America. But I wondered if they could genuinely be felt so deeply in the Arab world, which has different cultural values and traditions.

Again, Batool Hassan reassured me that the problem, if indeed there is one, is more an imaginary problem in Western eyes. "I see no reason why traditional values and norms should impede recent developments," she said. "There was no clash between the ancient, traditional background and the desire to modernize Omani society."

In a large part this was due to the fact that people had no intention of rejecting or discarding the very traditions that are the backbone of that society. Progress includes the safeguarding of these customs and traditional mores.

"The Omani people are proud of their inheritance and integrate it, together with religious demands and duties, into the modern life-style and mentality. There is, moreover, a potential reciprocity which can benefit both the Arab and the European woman," she added.

On the one hand, Batool sees that an Islamic upbringing provides Omani women with many admirable qualities, including a respect for tradition, working in the home, and adherence to the family structure. This imbues the people with a spiritual security and inner strength.

On the other hand, she sees that European women are probably more outward looking, or 'worldly', encompassing a wider material dimension within a more flexible structure.

Ultimately both can learn from each other," she said. "The spiritual breadth of vision can be integrated with the more materialistic, practical achievements, without interfering with or de-

stroying anyone's identity or originality."

I questioned how liberated the idea of arranged marriages was within the context of this talk about modernization. A Western observer may have been surprised by the fact that Batool Hassan did not criticize the longstanding tradition of arranged marriage. Indeed, she voiced the conviction that many such marriages can be, and are, a success. Her belief was strengthened by personal experience.

"The freedom to choose one's own marriage does not always go hand in hand with a happy marriage," she said. "My own marriage was arranged and I have been married — Allah be praised — for 25 years. I think my marriage is successful."

I still wondered whether it could be justified that parents should have such an influence over their children's future. Surely the curtailment of a fundamental decision as to whom one should marry was a denial of their freedom of choice?

Hayat Sultan came in here to support Batool. She pointed out that the incidence of arranged marriages is less frequent than before. "Many young people don't want to get married so early in life and refuse to be paired off simply because the family wants it," she said. "Although the family influence is great, in most cases parents no longer have the last word."

I also questioned the continued existence of the dowry system, which like arranged marriages, seems to formalize what is, after all, a human relationship — the marriage becomes a transaction between the families of the bride and groom.

According to Batool the system of the dowry continues, but has gradually been modified. At one time the 'selling' of the daughter

was purely part of an exchange; a sale done for money. Today, the state has decreed how large the dowry should be, a sum set somewhere between 300 to 1000 Rials, or \$700 to \$3,000. This even applies to Bedouin who live in remote areas, although their particular currency is more unconventional, taking the form of goats, sheep, camels and various other animals!

Once the dowry was the key factor for the bridegroom and the parents took responsibility for the house. Today, the onus lies with the bridegroom himself to also provide home needs and comforts.

Rather than look at the continued existence of these systems in a negative way, they can be positively appraised as part of a society which goes to great pains to ensure the security of its people.

This security centers around the upkeep of values and the continuity of generations. For example, Oman lacks the facilities for the institutionalization of the old and there are no old age homes as such. But this is because every family feels its duty to take care of the parents and grandparents within the family. The Holy Koran says they must and Batool Hassan sees this as natural.

"My grandmother lives with me and although she is over 80, she is always treated with love and respect. The old are a symbol of authority in the home, not just something that has outlived usefulness to be cast aside," she said.

This kind of tolerance and family solidarity is too frequently lost in the West. In Oman senior



Omani women enjoy professional responsibility

citizens carry weight, and although their view of life may differ from the younger generation, their advice is listened to.

"I don't want to be arrogant towards my elders and I want to allow them to think they have status in the home," said Batool.

Masomah Hameed poignantly saw this attitude as simply one of gratitude. "We must care for those who have cared for us," she said.

In this respect tradition can be seen to prevail. However, showing the Omani propensity to

consider and embrace modern ideas, they have readily adopted new children's institutions and a network of creches and kindergartens for the young now exists. As teacher Masomah Hameed said: "I feel it is imperative to inculcate the child with sensible ethical and spiritual values as early as possible. It is important to stimulate children so that they are able to express themselves within an established sense of decorum and structure."

These remarks struck me as a sensible rejoinder to some extremes found in the West today, which many sociologists and psychologists attribute to this very lack of basic spiritual strength in a child's upbringing.

In my discussions with the women, I finally felt it necessary to touch on the thorny subject of polygamy. It is a phenomenon which is permitted under Islam and I asked the women what they thought of this.

Batool Hassan remarked that its existence according to Islam was accompanied by certain prerequisites and conditions, adding that polygamy is an exception rather than a rule. In the isolated parts of the Omani interior it still thrives, but in urban areas such as Muscat it is on the decline.

The women were adamant to stress that marriage does not simply mean the getting of a wife to breed children. They forcefully pointed out to me that mutual obligations and sacrifices are also involved.

Masomah Hameed accepted that polygamy can be seen in the wider context of Islam, with its ramifications not only as a religion but also as a constitution and social system. She acknowledged that overtly, Islamic teachings and social references may seem to emphasize the patriarchal order, but she was quick to point out that "Allah permits polygamy, if all the wives are treated justly."

She also added that even though this may be considered to be the case, it also says in the Holy Koran that being just to all four wives at the same time is impossible. For this reason the Holy Koran beseeches men to refrain from marrying more than one wife!

She also referred to circumstances where it becomes impossible to permit a dispensation and indeed the wife may be safeguarded, and she quoted: "...When one's wife cannot bear a child, or if a wife is chronically ill, or if a man and wife do not see eye to eye. The man cannot just get rid of his first wife because she is the mother of their children." It was exactly this kind of delightful logic that I had now come to expect.

At this point I concluded the interview with a profound feeling of well-being. These women had voiced an insight into women's roles in both the old and the new order. They seemed to realize that change for change's sake is a futile exercise, but that the necessity of incorporating innovative social and spiritual ideas within the corpus of established tradition was the just way to move forward with grace and dignity.

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Campagne

Offensive touristique sur l'Allemagne

Le ministère du Tourisme jordanien est sur le point de signer un accord avec des compagnies allemandes. Un demi million de Dinars jordaniens vont être débouqués pour "vendre" Pétra, le Wadi Rum ou la mer Morte aux têtes blondes

LE JOURDAIN: Pourquoi l'Allemagne en priorité?

Nasri Atalla: Nous avons également décidé de faire des campagnes de promotion en France et en Angleterre. Mais ces deux pays viendront par la suite. L'Allemagne passe en premier, car elle a toujours été notre premier partenaire sur le plan touristique. C'est comme ça depuis quinze ans.

Après la guerre du Golfe, nous avons constaté que les Italiens se trouvaient également en bonne place. Dans le même temps, les Allemands ne bougeaient pas... Nous avons donc décidé de lancer une campagne. Et pour cela de signer un accord avec des compagnies privées.

L.J: Quels sont les termes exacts de cet accord, sur le point d'être signé?

Nasri Atalla: Nous allons supporter financièrement les "tour operators" allemands qui vont consacrer une partie de leurs catalogues à la Jordanie. En second lieu, nous prévoyons d'obtenir un programme sur la télévision allemande pour promouvoir le tourisme en Jordanie. Mais ce n'est qu'un projet pour le moment. Je ne suis pas encore en mesure de vous donner la chaîne de diffusion.

La tête pensante de cette campagne sur le territoire allemand s'appelle Rolf Pagnia. C'est le président de la plus grande chaîne touristique d'Allemagne, et retraité depuis un an, nous a été présenté par les autorités de ce pays. Ce consultant nous a déjà recommandé à la compagnie DRV service. Leur mission sera d'établir les contacts avec les "tour operators" qui veulent bien nous mentionner dans leurs publications. Ensuite, ils seront invités en Jordanie pour un "voyage de familiarisation".

Nous allons aussi recevoir des journalistes, faire passer des publicités dans les journaux et les magazines allemands. Pour cette partie du travail, notre consultant nous a mis en contact avec une société de Relations publiques. Celle-ci s'appelle RFW. Vous le voyez, nous couvrons

tous les secteurs. L'accord doit être signé à la fin du mois à Amman. Nous pouvons le dire, c'est une véritable offensive touristique sur l'Allemagne...

L.J: Quel est le coût de cette campagne pour le gouvernement jordanien?

Nasri Atalla: Cela représente un demi million de Dinars jordaniens. C'est énorme pour notre pays. C'est le signe que la Jordanie met l'accent sur le secteur du tourisme. En octobre dernier, nous avons réalisé une opération pour attirer les "tour operators" italiens. Nous nous sommes rendus en Italie à plusieurs reprises, nous avons organisé des conférences de presse... La Reine Noor a pu s'exprimer pendant une heure lors d'une émission de télévision en direct... Cette campagne a porté ses fruits. Mais il est vrai que les Italiens sont plus proches de nous. Ils se posent moins de questions. Après la guerre, ces derniers ont eu une mauvaise impression vis-à-vis de la région. Notre objectif: attirer à nouveau les touristes allemands.

L.J: Dans quelles proportions?

Nasri Atalla: Avant la guerre, nous accueillions sur notre sol 22.000 touristes allemands par an. L'année dernière, nous en avons compté seulement 8.500. Avec cet accord, pour la première année, nous entendons retrouver les chiffres d'avant 1990. Pour chacune des années suivantes, nous espérons enregistrer une hausse de 10 à 15% de la fréquentation par des touristes allemands.

L.J: Après l'Allemagne?

Nasri Atalla: J'espère que l'an prochain, nous allons faire la même chose avec la France. Puis ce sera l'Angleterre. Chacun son tour, nous ne pouvons pas entreprendre de telles campagnes partout en même temps. Mais nous sommes intéressés par ces pays, dans lesquels nous pouvons promouvoir un tourisme culturel. La Jordanie, c'est la civilisation et l'histoire. C'est Pétra, le Wadi



Nasri Atalla

Rum... Bref, en Jordanie, le tourisme c'est l'aventure...

L.J: Ne craignez-vous pas l'arrivée d'un tourisme "industriel" avec ses wagons d'inconvénients et de nuisances?

Nasri Atalla: D'abord, nous n'avons pas un nombre suffisant d'hôtels. A Pétra, par exemple, notre capacité d'accueil est très limitée. Mais en tout cas, il n'est pas dans notre intention d'accepter la masse industrielle du tourisme qui pourrait détériorer notre environnement.

L.J: La reprise tant annoncée?

Nasri Atalla: Nous pouvons

LES DÉLÉGUÉS ÉPINGUÉS



Télex... Jordanie

PAIX - "Nous sommes prêts à négocier avec avec n'importe quel gouvernement israélien" a déclaré lundi le porte-parole de la délégation jordanienne à la Conférence de paix, Marwan Muasher, lors d'une réunion commune avec la délégation palestinienne. Son homologue, Hanan Ashrawi a ajouté que la participation arabe se basait toujours sur la légitimité internationale "et non sur le gouvernement israélien au pouvoir".

PARLEMENT - Huit députés sur seize ont voté en faveur de la session extraordinaire du Parlement, ont clamé leur opposition à la création de partis politiques en Jordanie. "Ce pluralisme est un concept étranger. Nous ne devons pas importer les concepts occidentaux" a déclaré le député de Zarqa, Cheikh Abdul Bqil Jmmo, précisant qu'ils étaient "contraires aux principes de l'Islam".

RECTIFICATIF - Un porte-parole des Frères Musulmans a estimé "largement sous-estimé" le chiffre de 5.000 personnes, cité dans les journaux pour l'enterrement dimanche de Mr Ahmad Qalbi Al Azal, membre de la chambre basse du Parlement. "Ils étaient 70.000" a-t-il précisé. Aucun chiffre officiel n'a été communiqué pour les funérailles de ce leader islamiste et porte-parole des députés Frères Musulmans au Parlement.

A VOIR...

EXPO - Affiches d'Air France, du jeudi 25 juin au jeudi 16 juillet.

CINEMA - La Nuit du Cinéma au CCF, jeudi 25 juin. A 20h00, "La femme serbe" de Sébastien Grall, avec Philippe Noiret, Jacques Bonnaffé, Clémentine Célerié. A 22h30, "Poussière d'Angé" de Edouard Niermans, avec Bernard Giraudeau et Fanny Cottencin.

Regards de Jordanie

Qu'Allah te protège, aide-moi!

Ce mois-ci, Samir Khader, journaliste jordanien pousse un cri d'alarme. Halte à la mendicité! En Jordanie, cette activité, qui permet aux plus pauvres de subsister est aussi devenue un véritable business.

Par Samir Khader

"QU'ALLAH t'épargne le malheur... Aide-moi mon fils et Allah te récompensera"... Des phrases que le piéton moyen du centre ville d'Amman entend à longueur de journée. Dans ce que l'on appelle le "downtown", l'on ne peut parcourir dix mètres sans être "abordé" par l'un ou l'autre de ces dizaines de mendiants qui y prolifèrent. Certains sont, sans nul doute, dans le besoin. Cependant, une grande majorité d'entre eux a choisi de faire de la mendicité une véritable profession. Un métier comme les autres qui rapporterait gros...

Technique bien rodée

La "technique de l'abordage" connaît plusieurs variantes. Certains mendiants, les plus âgés, s'approprient un emplacement à même le sol et interpellent les passants de leurs phrases stéréotypées. D'autres, les plus jeunes, parmi lesquels figurent une majorité de femmes, s'approchent de vous en faisant mine de vouloir poser une question. Ils ne vont pas tarder à entrer dans le vif du sujet. Les enfants sont bien sûr les plus vivaces. Et de loin les plus "collants". Ils courent derrière vous, vous narguent et vous demandent, quelquefois sur un ton quasi-autoritaire, de leur accorder une petite pièce. Céder devient alors la seule porte de sortie.

Les Jordanais sont des gens généreux. Peut-être un peu trop. Cette caractéristique est la clé de voûte de notre système de valeurs, de notre culture, de notre religion. Et c'est peut-être là qu'il faut chercher les causes des échecs successifs de chaque tentative, même symbolique, visant à réduire, voire à éradiquer ce phénomène qui envahit nos rues et nos trottoirs. Pour nombre de mendiants, cette activité, c'est la solution de facilité. Ils préfèrent ce genre d'occupation qui rapporte aux dures conditions d'un travail moins rémunéré. Et qui reste d'ailleurs dans le domaine de l'hypothétique, dans un pays qui depuis quelques années, connaît un fort taux de chômage (environ 30%).

Un job comme un autre

"Un Ali" un mendiant du centre ville se livre d'une manière fort inattendue. Elle explique, sans détours que l'exercice de ce métier "ne s'improvise pas". Elle avoue en petit comité qu'il faut d'abord apprendre la technique et la "filosofie". Pour elle, la mendicité est une profession, un job comme un autre. Respectable.



Quand le pèse-personne sert à faire la manche

"Je ne transgresse aucune loi éthique, morale ou encore moins pénale", précise-t-elle. Et d'ajouter: "Je ne fais de mal à personne, d'ailleurs, je n'oblige jamais à donner..." Mais la mendicité est un univers impitoyable. Si l'on n'est pas assez "couteux", impossible de recevoir la monnaie. En termes de productivité, la société toute entière subit les conséquences de ce fléau des rues. Le phénomène de mendicité

inférieures de la ville? Leur enracinement dans le milieu citadin prouve, en tout cas, qu'ils correspondent à une réalité "structurelle".

Il est important de noter ici que la ville est, à l'époque contemporaine, un espace d'accumulation des contradictions et des disparités sociales. Elle conjugue, pour s'en tenir à la conjoncture actuelle, les divers éléments d'une crise pro-

logues, le phénomène est étroitement lié à la crise des valeurs. Les migrations successives et massives qu'a connues le royaume viennent alourdir l'addition. Résultat: dans nos villes, une masse d'exclus souffre d'une crise chronique d'adaptation.

Organiser le métier?

Pour le moment, pas de solution en vue. Précisément, aucune mesure "administrative" ne pourra venir à bout de ce phénomène. Seuls des régimes politiques dictatoriaux, à l'instar de ceux qui prévalaient jadis dans les pays d'Europe de l'Est, avaient réussi à éliminer ce phénomène dans sa forme "visible". Mais le prix à payer était énorme. Ce type de régime réussissait alors la prouesse de transformer toute une société en une "société de pauvres". Cette "solution" est donc inadmissible et inimaginable dans un pays qui a opté pour la démocratie.

Organiser le métier? Exiger l'obtention d'une "licence" de l'Etat pour avoir le droit de mendier? Impossible. On trouverait toujours le moyen pour se dérober et travailler "au noir". De plus, cela n'aurait à ce métier son caractère unique.

Le seul début de solution réside en nous. En nous... Chaque fois que vous allez être "abordé" par un mendiant, regardez-le droit dans les yeux et réfléchissez bien. Est-il vraiment dans le besoin? Vous êtes seuls à pouvoir trouver la réponse. Ou ne pas la trouver.

S.K.

L'EDITO

de Lama Hilal

Conciliation

LES récentes déclarations du Premier ministre de Bahrein, Cheikh Khalifa ben Salman, concernant la nécessité de réconcilier les pays du Golfe et l'Irak, illustrent une intention sérieuse parmi les monarchies du Golfe. Volonté de "dépasser" les différends et conflits qui ont opposé le Conseil de Coopération du Golfe (CCG) à leur redoutable voisin, l'Irak.

L'interview récente du Premier ministre bahreïni au Financial Times, pourrait générer d'autres initiatives plus larges en vue de normaliser les relations entre l'ensemble monarchique le plus riche et le reste des pays arabes qui ont adopté une position autonome pendant la guerre du Golfe. Normalisation qui pourrait inclure l'Irak. Selon le responsable bahreïni, "Saddam Hussein n'est qu'un être humain, il finira par disparaître un jour, mais l'Irak devrait être préservé en tant qu'Etat".

Élément important qui s'ajoute à l'attitude constante d'un autre Etat-membre du CCG, à savoir le Sultanat d'Oman, seul pays à avoir gardé son ambassade à Bagdad ouverte pendant et après la guerre du Golfe. Le message de Bahrein, répercuté par le Financial Times, a été précédé par un télégramme adressé par ce même Premier ministre à Saddam Hussein, à l'occasion de l'Aïd Al-Idha - fête du sacrifice mais aussi du pardon.

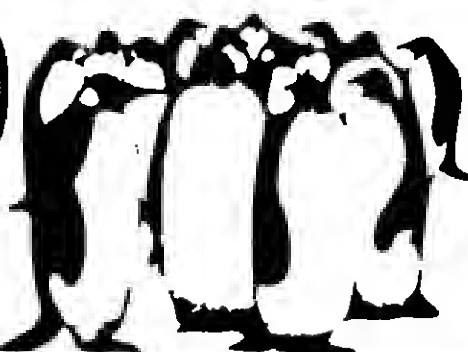
Les raisons de ce geste rédempteur, avancées par Khalifa, semblent motivées par des préoccupations humanitaires à l'égard du peuple irakien, qui a trop chèrement payé la brève occupation du Koweït. Mais attention, une motivation peut en cacher une autre.

Pourquoi un pays du Golfe sort-il du silence pour tendre la main au voisin du Nord? Est-ce le résultat de pressions des opinions publiques des monarchies scandalisées par l'ampleur du calvaire irakien? Des milliers d'enfants périssant à cause de la pénurie de lait, des malades privés des soins les plus élémentaires, une province, Bassorah, menacée par la famine. Tous ces éléments pourraient servir de fondation à la construction d'une nouvelle tendance. Celle-ci inciterait à vouloir tourner une des pages les plus sombres de l'histoire de cette partie du monde.

Par ailleurs, en isolant trop l'Irak, les monarchies risqueraient de laisser le champ libre à l'Iran, dont les visées sur le Golfe ne font aucun doute.

De tels gestes ne pourront avoir de crédibilité, que lorsqu'ils seront suivis de tentatives concrètes de la part du chef de file de la région, c'est-à-dire l'Arabie Saoudite. Même si du côté koweïtien, il est prématuré de s'attendre à un rapprochement avec l'Irak, l'absence d'opposition ou de réaction négative à l'initiative de Bahrein pourrait constituer une promesse de conciliation.

AROUND TOWN



A tour of the old Amman

The Hashem House, the Abul al Huda House, the Bilbeisi house — they are names that conjure up memories of Jordan's early politicians and businessmen who built modern Jordan and who gave it its first grand houses. They were memories brought back with great skill by architect Dr. Talib Rifal last Friday as he led Friends of Archeology on a walking tour of old Amman.

The first stop, at the parking lot where until twenty years ago the fine old house of former Prime Minister Ibrahim Hashim stood, took them straight into the theme that marked the morning — the fragility of Amman's architectural heritage when any house over 30 years of age can be demolished without difficulty.

The house of another prime minister Tawfiq Abul Huda has faded better, the elegant stone building has now been restored as the office of architect Akram Abu Hamdan. With its large central hallway and symmetrical side wings, the house is similar to the classic Lebanese houses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Still standing, but for how long, is the Saudi house in Basman street. Businessman Kheino Saudi and his two brothers came from Damascus in the 1890s and built their first house in 1895 just opposite the Hussein mosque.

FOA president Ghazi Saudi, grandson of Kheino Saudi's brother told the group that the original house was demolished and in 1911 the family built a Damascus style house with a courtyard house in Basman street, adding a new floor in 1931. Today the ground floor is a store and the 1931 level stands empty, only its fine Jaffa floor tiles serving as a reminder of its former grace.

The FOA members did their tour as Amman's early residents would have, via the staircases that were the city's original streets. Up those stairs on Jabal Amman, and with a superb view of the city, is the Bilbeisi complex, two splendid houses, one built in 1933, the other in 1949 and sharing the first formal garden to be established in Amman.

Mrs Mai Bilbeisi, daughter of pioneering Egyptian businessman Ismail Basha Bilbeisi, who built the houses, would like to see the larger of the two serve as museum for Amman.

Close by the Bilbeisi houses is the house of Salem Oudat, now enjoying new life as the Bani Hamida centre, further down is the 1923 house of historian Aref Al Aref which brought a new style in arches to the city. Then there is Khirfan street, named for a Nabulus family whose taste for simple but substantial two storey stone houses gives the street its own special character even today.

The Friends trip ended at the Italian Hospital in downtown Amman and there the news was positive. The hospital was built in 1928 by an Italian charitable society whose main aim was to build schools and hospitals throughout the Middle East, something they succeeded in doing in Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Greece and even China.

In 1935 Ernesto Scaparelli, architect of the Egyptian museum in Turin, built what was intended as an architectural centre next to the hospital. Now after many years in use as a doctor's residence, the house has regained its original purpose and secured its future as the Italian Jordanian Archeological Institute.

Congratulations!!

Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.



Agenda

Films:

The Spanish Cultural Center will be presenting two films titled "Exquillache", and "The Spanish Constitution" on 25 June, Thursday at 4:30 pm and 29 June, Monday at 10:30 am.

On 27 June at 8 pm, the Goeche-Institut will present a film titled, "One of the Two of Us". A Berlin university student blackmails his professor and his sudden wealth causes him trouble.

Exhibitions:

On display at the British Council will be selected maps of parts of Jordan produced since 1985 by Jordanian geologists. The exhibition will open at 7 pm on Sunday 28 June when there will be a short talk in English with Arabic summary illustrated by slides by Engineer Ma'n El-Hiyari, head of Geological mapping, Geology Directorate, NRA. The exhibition will be open to the public until 1 July.

Under the patronage of Thouran Al Hindawi, the minister of education, the British Council will present and exhibition titled, Exploring Science. The British Council will be alive with the sights and sounds of this exciting exhibition. Exploring Science is a completely new type of exhibition that invites visitors to get their hands on the exhibits, thereby learning about science through exploration. The exhibition will be open to the public in Amman from 25 July to 16 August.

The Friends of Archeology have organized a field trip on Friday 26 June, to the site works included in the Madaba Plains project. The trip includes visits to Tell Jawa, Jellul and Tell el Umelri and a picnic in the Tell el Umelri forest.

Concerts:

The Amman Players Orchestra will be presenting a concert at the phoenix gallery on Thursday 25 June at 8:00 pm. For more details call 616834 or 695291.

Field Trips:

On Friday 3 July the Friends of Archeology have organized another field trip to Um el Jimal to see the black basalt Roman town. For both field trips participants are asked to bring drinking water and lunch. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 am.



Congratulations!



● Suha Kamel Shehadeh
Graduate of Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical)

Suha studied engineering, particularly Electrical Engineering, because she found it an enjoyable technical field, removed from routine or constant supervision. Her field is wide in opportunity in terms of research and studies and one can really go far. Her ambition is to find work in her field of studies so that she can put what she's learnt into practice. She would also like to further her studies in the future.

● Younan El Abed Khaleel Sumrah
Graduate of Masters in Accounting

Younan chose to continue his Masters degree because he wanted to improve his level of studies. He feels he did this in an opportune time as he was not tied down by any work responsibilities. Now, due to his studies, he works part time as an accountant. His ambitions now are to enrol in the CPA course in America, and to follow with his PhD. By doing this, he feels it will give him the opportunity to run his own business at a high standard.



● Ahmad Maashhour Hussein
Graduate of Bachelor of Education (Physical Education)

Ahmad chose to study Physical Education because it is also an interest he has as a soccer player. His ambition is to further his studies by doing his Masters degree — which he has already enrolled in — and a PhD.



● Usra Abd Allah Telfah
Graduate of Bachelor of Education (Kindergarten Teacher)

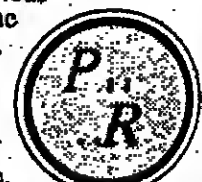
The reason Usra chose this course is because it is something she has always wanted to do. She would like to follow up her studies by doing her Masters Degree.

American Muslim launches new translation of Quran

Dr Thomas B. Irving, Dean of Arts and Sciences at the American Islamic College, Chicago, presents the first version of the Quran in relevant yet contemporary American English far from the Shakespearean, Classical language. Unlike many previous translators, who have taken too far short of the message and beauty of the original Arabic, Dr. Irving remained scrupulously faithful to the Arabic text, giving a clear rendition of the original Arabic into intelligible modern English.

This translation is the product of 25 years of hard work. It is intended to permit everyone, Muslim or Non-Muslim, adult or child, to understand the Quran even without any knowledge of the Arabic language. The internal setting of the book is designed so that the translation of each verse lies in a symmetrical position opposite to the original Arabic.

Dr Irving holds his PhD from Princeton University, is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and is a dedicated American Muslim, Islamic scholar and linguist.



Saudi appoints Intermarkets as advertising agents

INTERMARKETS ADVERTISING has recently won the prestigious Saudi Arabian Airlines account, involving local tactical advertising in Saudi Arabia and corporate advertising in international media. In a pitch involving five leading Saudi-based advertising agencies, the Middle Eastern advertising and PR group responded to a detailed brief embracing general advertising, sales promotion, direct marketing and public relations.

Saudi is among the world's largest airlines, in terms of passenger boardings and fleet size, carrying some 10 million passengers yearly on its extensive fleet of modern, wide-bodied aircraft, including B747-300s, Airbus 300-600s and TriStar L1011s. Saudia presently flies to some 63 destinations worldwide.

Intermarkets was established over 30 years ago and has offices in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, London and Muscat. Its newly reorganized public relations division is the exclusive Burson — Marsteller affiliate in the Middle East.

Intermarkets advertising General Manager in Saudi Arabia, Nadim Sfar said of the new account win: "Saudia is one of the top companies in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Region. We are very honoured to have won this account, which was the result of a well coordinated effort by a team of the top creative, sales promotion and public relations people within our group. We have a big job to do for Saudia, who have entrusted us with their considerable prestige and goodwill, which we will be doing our utmost to sustain."

Saudi General Manager for Sales Promotion and Development, Abdullah Al-Jehani also sounded an optimistic note on the recent appointment. "We are looking forward to a very productive working relationship," he said. "No doubt, the qualities that won for them the Saudi account will now be put to good use in promoting the airline's image and services worldwide."

Work on the account, which will be coordinated by Intermarkets' Jeddah office, will start immediately.



KEEPING FIT

As the weather gets warmer, there are some changes you should make in your workout, exercising in the heat can cause cramps, loss of fluid, loss of consciousness and even lead to death.

Here are some tips on avoiding heat-related injury.

● Take it easy in the first seven days to adjust to the heat. That's how long it will take for your sweat glands to enlarge, making you perspire sooner.

● Overdosing on salt can thicken your blood and make it more likely to clot, leading to a heart attack or stroke.

● Drink water and 70 grams of glycerol to improve your endurance. Glycerol helps your tissues retain more water, sweat earlier and produce more sweat.

● If you get a cramp, stretch the muscle with one hand and gently knead it with your fingers. To prevent cramps, drink a cup of water every 15 minutes during exercise. If the cramp persists, see a doctor.

● If your muscles start to burn, you're having trouble breathing, your whole body feels hot, your head hurts, you see spots or hear ringing in your ears, stop exercising and get medical help. Those are the signs of heatstroke.

Child psychology: Your child's first visit to the dentist

By Vesna Mashnrga

A FIRST visit to the dentist can be a traumatic experience for your child if it is not properly organized. However it can also be a fun, educational outing and an experience leading to a child's self-awareness and assuming of personal responsibility.

Every child is afraid of the unknown and unfamiliar situations, that's why it is a parent's duty to explain why people need or have to go to the dentist. The parent must also explain what usually happens there and what's expected from a child once he is there. The explanation should be brief, suitable for the child's age. Perhaps the parent should stress how happy the child will be to get rid of the terrible pain, or one could structure a game with a child and his toy who suddenly has severe toothache and needs the child's assistance.

No matter how a parent chooses to explain the necessity of going to the dentist, one should not forget to emphasize the positive aspects of going to the dentist. If the child absorbs it well, he should also discuss with him what can happen to those who refuse to go. Nonetheless it is wrong for a parent to frighten a child with heavy facts.

It is always preferable to take a child for the first time to the dentist for a general check-up, or to let him accompany someone.

But what should a parent do if, in spite of all discussions at home, the child refuses to sit on the chair and insists to go home? You must take him home, but make him take responsibility for his toothache and tell him that you cannot help him. While he is at the dentist he won't be able to comprehend it because he is under stress, but at home in a secure atmosphere, he will be able to think about it, and make the decision to return to the dentist with full conclusions.

Maybe he will be hesitant once again, but the pain will start having a full meaning and the child will assume responsibility about dealing with it.

At the end of the treatment, a child's decision should be awarded by praising his attitude in front of his friends.

Readers are invited to write in with their questions about child upbringing or any general questions about child psychology.

Post your letters to:
Child Psychology
The Star
P.O. Box 9313
Amman

Needing reading glasses

By Patricia McLaughlin

LITTLE SHOCKS. Intimations of mortality. Omens of impending middle age.

Your friends — people who graduated from college the same year you did — have started playing middle-aged games like golf and bridge. They take their lawns seriously. You get a piece of junk mail from a retirement home — and, oh, the relief when

chair! Take up knitting! But wait. There's a silver lining to this particular cloud. Needing reading glasses provides you with a shopping opportunity of surprising richness. For instance, you can buy them with frames that are the last word in style from Ray Ban or Giorgio Armani for a hundred dollars or so. Or you can get basic John Lennon wire-rim half-specs, or heavy-duty black-framed Buddy Holly glasses — quite cheaply.

But you don't have to, it turns out, for many fashion designers know that everybody who hits 40 is about to need a pair of magnifiers. The whole fashion business knows that 77 million Baby Boomers are on the point of needing a pair of reading glasses — or three pairs or five, so they won't always be leaving them at the office or downstairs with the morning paper, or upstairs by the thread box, because they can't thread a needle without them anymore.

It's a boom of its own. And the result is a veritable flood of over-the-counter reading glasses that are snappy, stylish and colorful. You can have half-glasses in scarlet or purple or grass green or chrome yellow — or full-frame two-tone jobs in shapes that don't begin to remind you of your dear old granny. They look so great that even people who don't need them are buying them.

The question is: How many need reading glasses, will presbyopia come to seem desirable, even chic? After all, in the '60s, when they hit their teens, even their grandmas started wearing baby-doll shift dresses hemmed above their knees, with demure white stockings and flat shoes. Of course, youth has more natural advantages than not being able to read without glasses. But who knows? Glasses could turn out to be a major sociocultural trend. Consider the possibilities: Calvin Klein canes, Louis Vuitton walkers, armbands dimly scented with Chanel, teen-agers dyeing their hair gray to look fashionably older.

We'll just have to wait and see. (Those of us who still can.)



it says you won't be eligible to join for another 14 years!

Oh, well. Like Yeats said, things fall apart. You who were so young for so long, and expected to be a kid forever.

You see this very clearly the day you go in to have your eyes checked. You tell the doctor (who is as old as your son) you're having trouble reading and you just want to make sure there isn't something terribly wrong, some insidious disease, maybe a brain tumor or something....

Age is what's wrong with you, he says heartlessly. You just need reading glasses. (Just?) It happens to everybody, he says, right around 40. He writes you a prescription and tells you you can get it filled at an optician's — or you can just buy some magnifying glasses; they'll work just as well.

Now you'll be one of those people who are always misplacing their reading glasses, checking under all the sofa cushions when they're on top of your head all the time, having to pull them out every time you need to read a menu — or else ordering food that isn't there. You might as well give up right now, resign yourself, buy one of those tacky gold chains to hang your glasses around your neck, where they can announce your decrepitude to all viewers. Buy a rocking

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
27 June
- 3 July

ENGLISH PROGRAM

TUESDAY

FRENCH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — Super Bloopers.
9:00 — Encounter.
10:00 — News in English.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Wings. Looking her
Inve.
9:10 — Documentary. Irresis-



Nick Giannopoulos as Jim, in "Acropolis Now". Tuesday 8:30.

ible Forces. A team of Scientists, explore Antarctica, and the great contribution of the Arabs to the science of exploration.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order.

MONDAY

8:30 — Close to Home.
9:10 — Capital City.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Gold.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Acropolis Now.
9:10 — Palace Guard.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Film: The Challenge. Starring Robert Douglas. The story of an English team that succeeded in climbing a mountain in the Alps in 1865.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Saved by the hell.
9:10 — Local program. Wednesday Forum.
9:30 — Man of The People.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Till we meet again. New mini series. In 1913 a rich French officer, Paul, falls in love with Eve and both travel to America after World War I.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons.
9:10 — Civil Wars.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the Week: Opposites Attract. Starring Barbara Eden and John Forsythe. A love story between two politicians running against each other in an election.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Please don't eat the Daisies.
9:10 — E.N.G.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Inspector Morse.

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — La Gymnastique.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine E-M6: The cultural Magazine.
10:20 — French Feature Film. The robbery of the Sphinx's head. A gang of thieves try to steal the Sphinx's head.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Michel Vaillant.
5:50 — Des chiffres et des lettres.
6:10 — L'école des fans.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Music Classique. A classical music program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous Marin.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Magazine Sportif.

MARDI

6:10 — Les Tortues Ninja.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropique.

JEUDI

6:00 — Sanctuaires Sauvages.
6:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Le cirque du soleil: International Circus.

VENDREDI

5:30 — Film.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions.

TOP ENTERTAINMENT HITS

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Under the Bridge, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Warner Bros.
2. Jump, Kriss Kross, Columbia
3. My Lovin', En Vogue, ATCO
4. Live and Learn, Joe Public, Columbia
5. I'll Be There, Mariah Carey, Columbia
6. If You Asked Me To, Celine Dion, EPIC
7. Ain't 2 Proud 2 Beg, TLC, Arista
8. Dami, I Wish Was Your Lover, Sophia, Columbia
9. In the Closet, Michael Jackson, MCA
10. Baby Got Back, Sir Mix-A-Lot, Reprice

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Little Man Tate, Jodie Foster, Adam J. Hann-Byrd, Orion Home Video (R-1991)
2. The Butcher's Wife, Demi Moore, Jeff Daniels, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
3. Freejack, Emilio Estevez, Mick Jagger, Warner Home Video (R-1991)
4. The Last Boy Scout, Bruce Willis, Damon Wayans, Warner Home Video (R-1991)
5. The Fisher King, Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges, Columbia

6. Deceived, Goldie Hawn, John Heard, Touchstone Home Video (R-1991)
7. Frankie and Johnny, Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer, Paramount Home Video (R-1991)
8. Highlander 2: The Quickening, Christopher Lambert, Sean Connery, Columbia TriStar Home Video (R-1991)
9. Boyz n the Hood, Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr., Columbia TriStar Home Video (R-1991)
10. The Commitments, Robert Arkins, Michael Aherne, Fox Video (R-1991)

HOME MOVIES

BUGSY (Columbia/TriStar) Warren Beatty earned some of the best reviews of his career for director Barry Levinson's fine portrait of mobster Bugsy Siegel, whose relationship with actress Virginia Hill (played by Annette Bette) gets much attention here. The excellent supporting cast includes Ben Kingsley, Harvey Keitel and Elliott Gould. ★★★ (R: AS, P, V)



STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (Fox) There's still plenty of life left in the old starship yet, as this sixth theatrical edition of the Enterprise crew's exploits proves. Just as the Federation and Klingons are about to reach a peace agreement, Kirk (William Shatner) and his crew are accused of sabotaging the pact. Leonard Nimoy also returns as Spock. . . of course. ★★★ (PG: AS, P, V)

his secretary, who persuades him to let her undertake a dangerous mission. Liam Neeson and Sir John Gielgud also appear. ★★ (R: AS, P, V)

SHINING THROUGH (Fox) Michael Douglas and Melanie Griffith are ensnared in World War II espionage in a spy drama with a romantic undercurrent, based on the novel by Susan Isaacs. Douglas plays a businessman covertly operating as an OSS agent, and Griffith portrays

COMING SOON: HURRICANE SMITH: In a new action-adventure, Carl Weathers hits Australia like a . . . well, like a hurricane. (R)

RATINGS:
★ - don't bother, ★★ - not bad, ★★★ - worth seeing, ★★★★ - excellent.

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE
KEY: P - profanity; V - violence; GV - particularly graphic violence; AS - adult situations.

HOROSCOPE

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Play by the rules the first of this week. Later, you'll get more freedom.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): You'll be a powerhouse of energy. Hit it hard, so you can rest when conditions change.

GEMINI (21 May - 21 June): Decide the direction you want your career to take. Then, do something concrete to make that happen. Sign up for a class.

CANCER (22 June - 22 July): The first of this week is very good for doing things the old-fashioned way. That should be a comfort.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Be patient; you'll get your chance. Conditions will be excellent to sell a project.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): The first of this week should go by quickly. You'll be too busy to worry about a thing.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): This could be the year hard works really pays off. You may get to find out whether you want to move or not! The old values will win, if you mix them with new technology and a lot of faith! Your mate will be a source of constant strength. If you reciprocate.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Finish a project early, there may be delays later in the week. You'll relax more on Sat-

urday. This weekend will be an excellent time to play in the garden.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): Concentrate your efforts on the end of the week, that's when you'll be most effective.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Hard work will pay big dividends. Expect to have to modify your schedule later, though. This weekend plan a family feast.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Save your big guns for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Be quick, decisive, and meticulous in your presentation.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): It will be easier to talk to a friend about something that's been bothering you. Don't do it during working hours though.

IF YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: This could be the year hard works really pays off. You may get to find out whether you want to move or not! The old values will win, if you mix them with new technology and a lot of faith! Your mate will be a source of constant strength. If you reciprocate.

Would You Believe.....

The U.S. Army had combat mule units until 1956.

Before Congress changed the law in 1933, the only way you could use a dime was in a transaction worth \$10 or less.

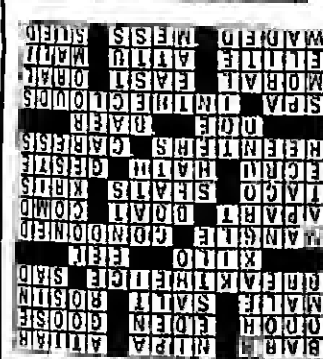
Rod Serling was a successful playwright before he turned his attention to making "The Twilight Zone."

It's said that Washington, D.C., has more telephones than it does people.

A new car made by Mazda knows how to cool itself. It has solar-powered fans that come on when the interior heats up.

The Chilean tree called the monkey puzzle got its name because its twisted and prickly branches are tough for even a monkey to climb.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

By Ghassan Ghanem

EPSON 1992

THIS YEAR'S Epson contest presented two almost independent sessions with regards to scoring. Accordingly, a separate souvenir book was presented for each of the sessions.

Both books were compiled by Omar Sharif, but the second one had an additional merit, where Zia Mahmood has his own comment on each of the thirty six hands of the second session. I played both sessions with my regular partner M. Ghanem, here is a hand from the second session:

Board 4
Dealer: W
Both sides
Vulnerable
K 3 2
Q 10 8 6 4 3
5
8 2
Q 9 7 6
2
K 10 8 2
K J 5 3
N
W
E
S
J 10
A J 5
J 9 6 4
10 9 7 6
A 8 5 4
9 7
A Q 7 3
A Q 4
North, I opened the bidding with 3♠. A weaker bid shows a preempt in the heart suit, and my partner (raised) to 4♥ and got the ♠ 6.

Declarer won in hand with the ♠ A and lost the ♥ K to the Ace. East correctly played back a club and west won declarer's Queen with her King and played back another spade that was won with the ♥ K.

Declarer cashed the ♠ A and ruffed a club from dummy, cashed the ♥ Q and ducked a heart to East's ♥ J.

Had East returned a diamond at this stage, the squeeze would have been broken and the contract would have been doomed, but, in view of the previous club ruff, East played a lazy club, he fell into declarer's trap and the rest was a routine squeeze. The hearts were cashed with the ♥ 3 squeezing west in diamond and hearts, West played well by baring the ♠ K, but declarer dropped it with a confident smile.

East failed to brake the squeeze, but all the credit goes to the declarer who tempted East to return club and read the hand correctly.

Never too late

The Jordan Bridge Association started a training session under the supervision of Michel Eudi. Michel is probably one of the best Arab players and also one of the best worldwide. He proved his abilities as a player and a teacher. We all hope that our players will make the most out of this session.

Obituary

In addition to all his social, cultural, economical activities, Dr Khalil El-Salem engaged a spare part of his ever busy brain with bridge. Dr Salem, who passed away this week, was a keen player and had skill in all aspects of the game.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"I don't know what you're insinuating, Jane, but I haven't seen your Harold all day - besides, surely you know I would only favour my own husband!"



"Whoa! Whoa! C'mon, you guys! This is just a friendly game of cards - ease up on those acid-filled beakers."